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APPROVED
BY THE
SPACE
MEDICINE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

THE FAMED LAWMAN
ASKS THE BIGGEST
QUESTION OF HIS LIFE--
**"AM I Really
BATMAN?"**

"THE BLACK CASEBOOK"

IT WOULD BE FAR
EASIER TO CONSIDER
THIS A DREAM... BUT
HOW CAN I? FOR IN
MY HAND I HOLD THE
BAT-RADIA!



THE IMPROBABLE CAUSES OF

R.I.P.





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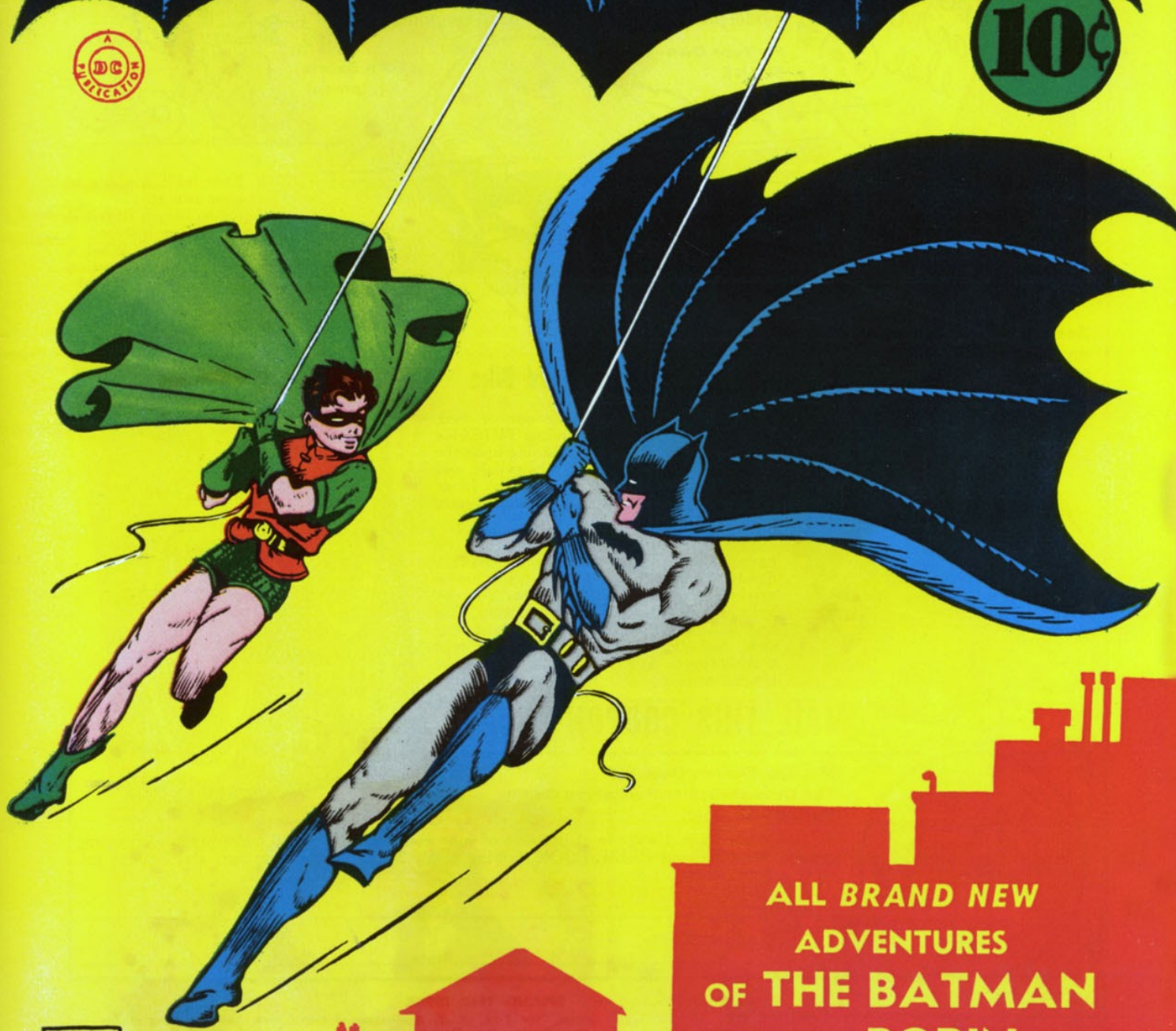
PART ONE
THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF HEROES

No .1

SPRING ISSUE

BATMAN

10¢



ALL BRAND NEW
ADVENTURES
OF THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER!

The **LEGEND** of the

BATMAN

by **BOB KANE**

— WHO HE IS
AND HOW HE
CAME TO BE!

ONE NIGHT SOME FIFTEEN
YEARS AGO, THOMAS WAYNE,
HIS WIFE AND HIS SON WERE
WALKING HOME FROM A MOVIE...

W. WHAT
IS THIS?

A STICKUP, BUDDY!
I'LL TAKE THAT NECK
LACE YOU'RE
WEARIN' LADY!

LEAVE HER
ALONE, YOU!
OH.....

YOU
ASKED
FOR IT!

THOMAS! YOU'VE
KILLED HIM. HELP!
POLICE... HELP!

THIS'LL SHUT
YOU UP!

THE BOY'S EYES ARE WIDE WITH TERROR AND SHOCK AS THE HORRIBLE SCENE IS SPREAD BEFORE HIM.



FATHER... MOTHER!

... DEAD!
THEY'RE
D. DEAD



DAYS LATER, A CURIOUS AND STRANGE SCENE TAKES PLACE.

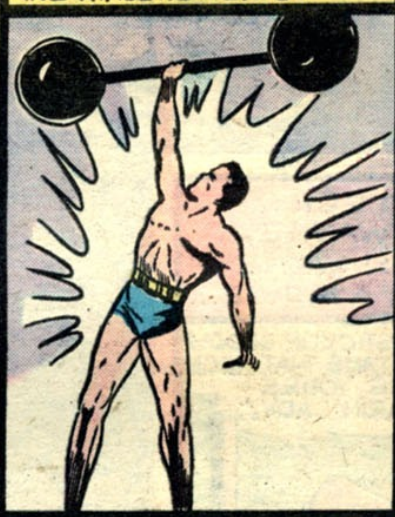
AND I SWEAR BY THE SPIRITS OF MY PARENTS TO AVENGE THEIR DEATHS BY SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WARRING ON ALL CRIMINALS



AS THE YEARS PASS BRUCE WAYNE PREPARES HIMSELF FOR HIS CAREER. HE BECOMES A MASTER SCIENTIST.



TRAINS HIS BODY TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO PERFORM AMAZING ATHLETIC FEATS.



DAD'S ESTATE LEFT ME WEALTHY. I AM READY.. BUT FIRST I MUST HAVE A DISGUISE.



CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS COWARDLY LOT, SOMY DISGUISE MUST BE ABLE TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS. I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, BLACK, TERRIBLE... A A.



AS IF IN ANSWER, A HUGE BAT FLIES IN THE OPEN WINDOW!



A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S AN OMEN.. I SHALL BECOME A BAT!

AND THIS IS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE DARK.. THIS AVENGER OF EVIL.. THE BATMAN





DEC...JAN.
NO.62

52 BIG PAGES

10¢

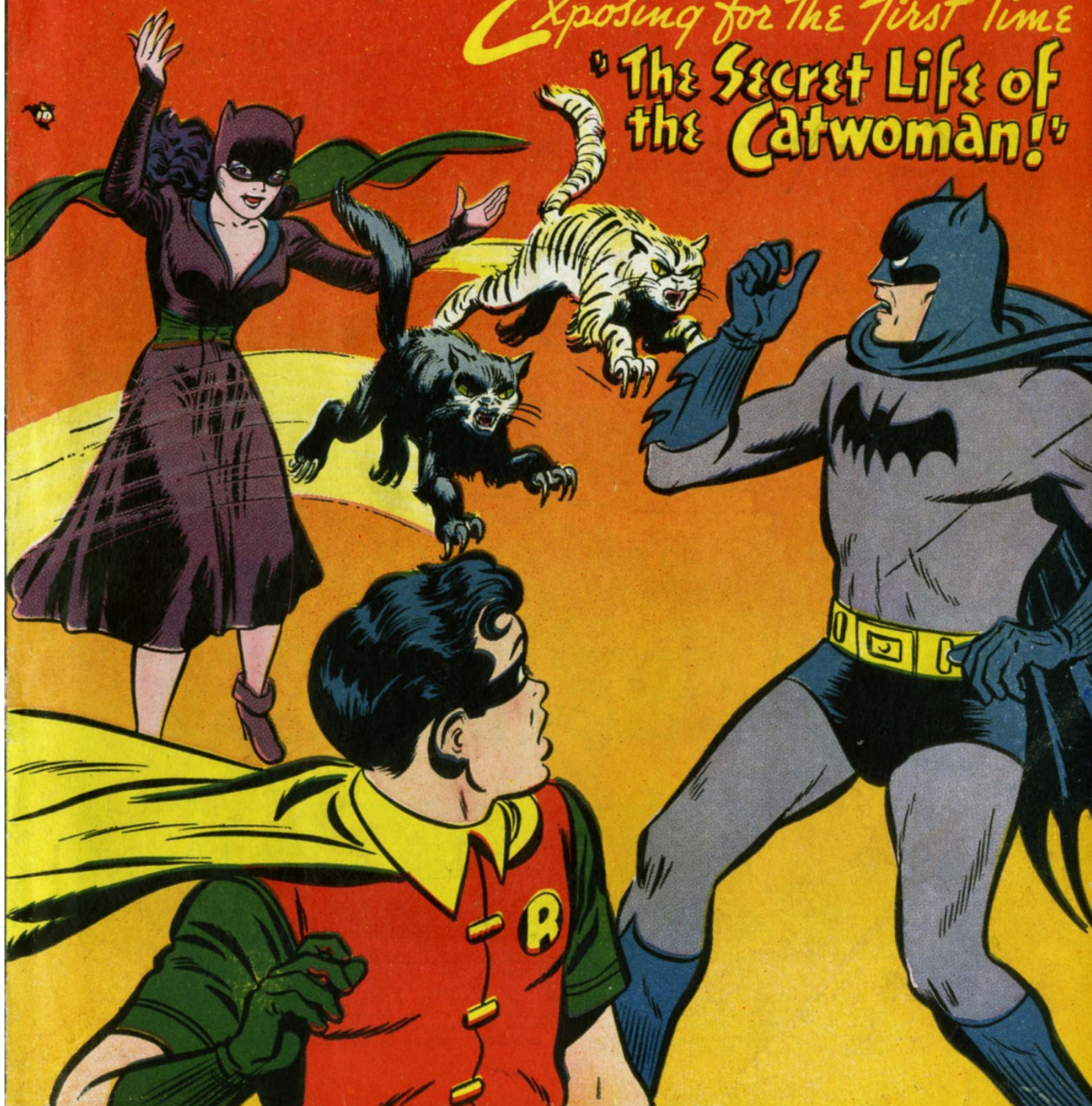


BATMAN

**CATWOMAN
RETURNS!**

**BATMAN'S
FELINE FOE IN A
DARING NEW ROLE!**

*Exposing for the First Time
"The Secret Life of
the Catwoman!"*





BATMAN

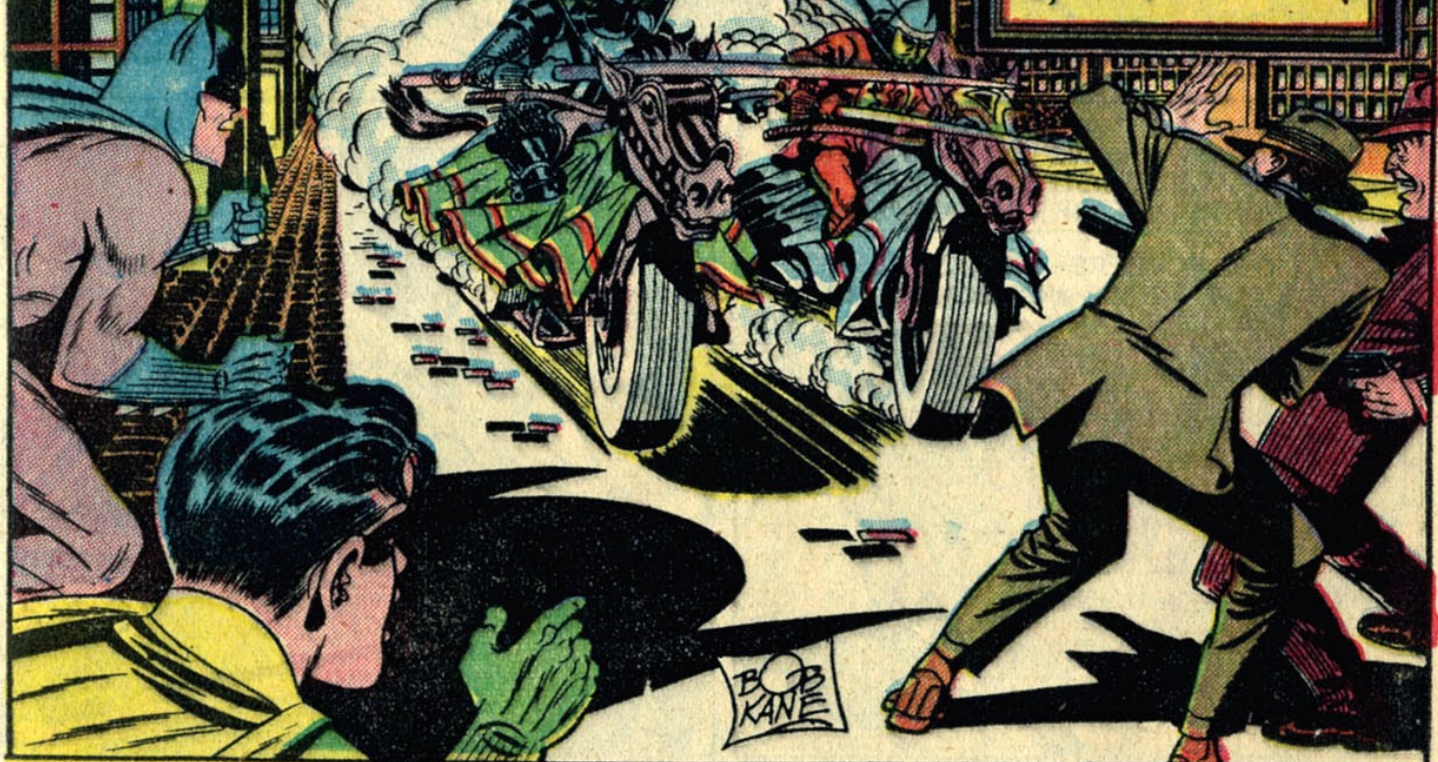


BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

WHEN TWO ADMIRERS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND, DECIDE TO FIGHT CRIME LIKE THEIR AMERICAN HEROES, THEY LITTLE DREAM WHAT DEADLY DANGERS AWAIT THEM. FOR THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, AS THE BRITISH VERSION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO CALLS ITSELF, ARE DESTINED TO FIGHT THE CLEVEREST CRIMINALS OF TWO CONTINENTS! YOU'LL READ ALL ABOUT IT IN --

"The BATMAN of ENGLAND!"

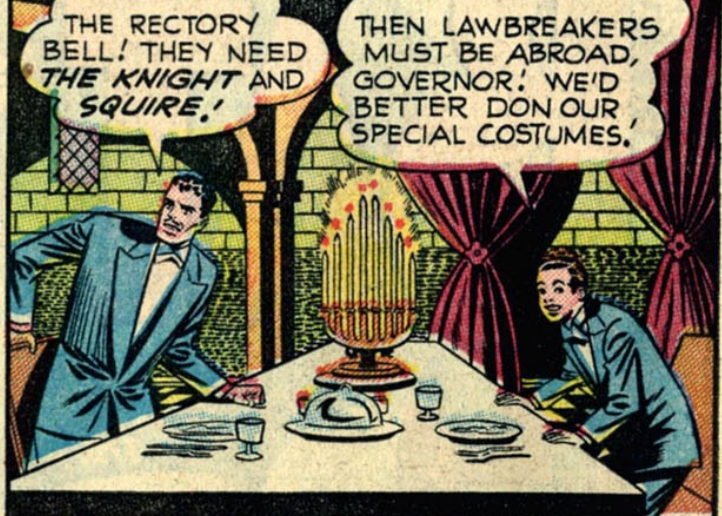


OUTSIDE THE QUIET VILLAGE OF WORDENSHIRE, ENGLAND, RESOUNDS A CLANGOROUS BELL TOLLING AN URGENT SUMMONS.



IT'S THE RECTORY BELL! THEY'RE SIGNALLING THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE!

THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE? WHO ARE THEY? THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON CYRIL SEEM TO KNOW!



THE RECTORY BELL! THEY NEED THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE!

THEN LAWBREAKERS MUST BE ABROAD, GOVERNOR! WE'D BETTER DON OUR SPECIAL COSTUMES!

HASTENING DOWN TO ONE OF THE SHADOWY CRYPTS BENEATH THE OLD CASTLE...



THEY'RE STILL RINGING!

WE'RE ALMOST READY!

PRESENTLY, TWO MASKED MEDIEVAL FIGURES ROAR OUT BY A SECRET PASSAGE, ON "WAR HORSES" THAT ARE REALLY POWERFUL MOTORCYCLES!

I'LL WAGER EVEN BATMAN AND ROBIN COULDN'T GET INTO COSTUME AND ANSWER A CALL FASTER THAN US!

WE'VE LEARNED A LOT BY STUDYING THEIR CASES AND IMITATING THEM!



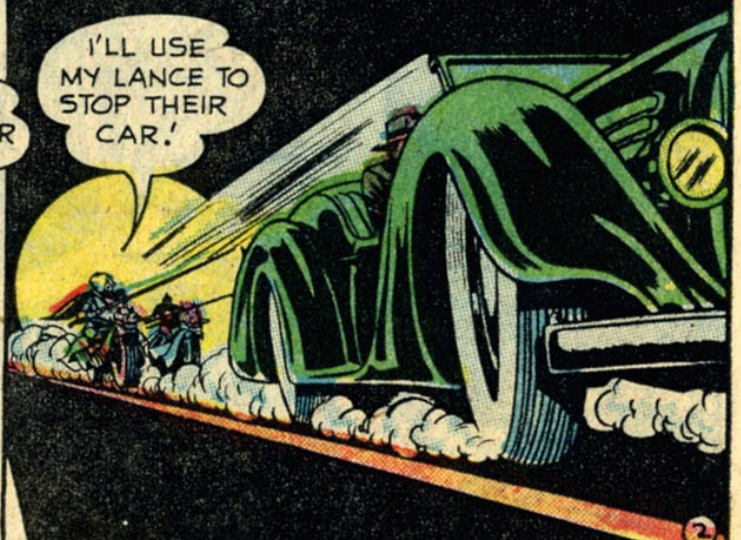
THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE—AN ENGLISH IMITATION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO! AND JUST AS A SQUIRE OF OLD ASSISTED HIS KNIGHT, THIS SQUIRE ASSISTS HIS FATHER IN CRUSHING CRIME!



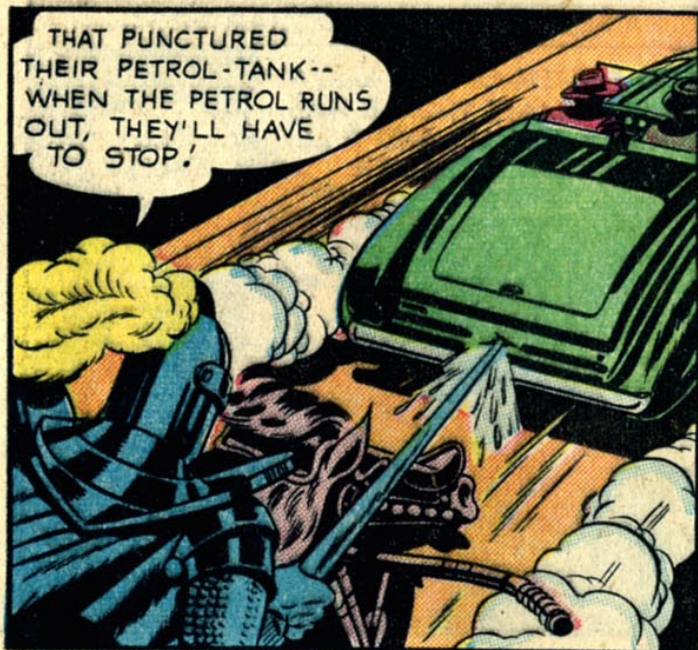
TWO ROBBERS—THEY JUST CLEANED OUT THE PUB AND ESCAPED IN A MOTOR CAR!

WE'LL GO AFTER THEM!

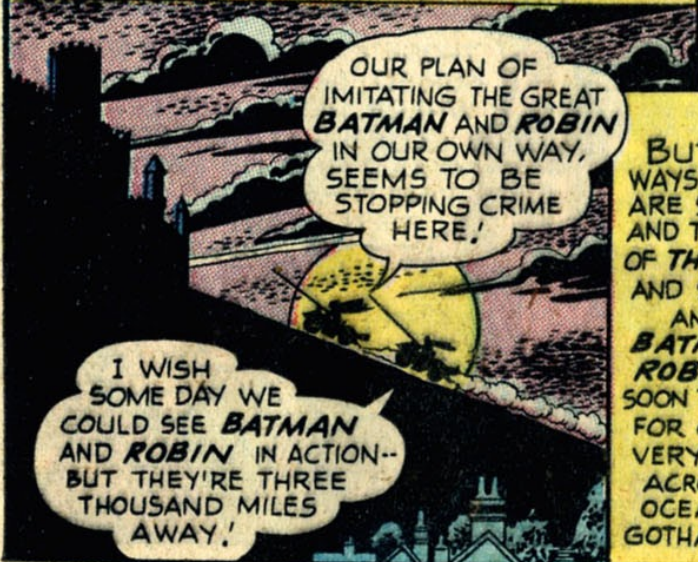
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A SWIFT PURSUIT...



I'LL USE MY LANCE TO STOP THEIR CAR!



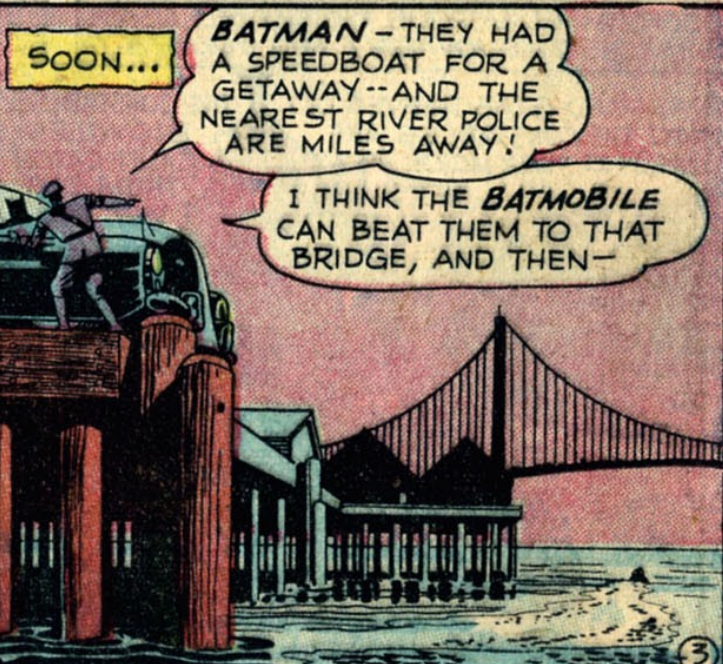
LATER, AFTER DELIVERING THE CAPTURED CRIMINALS TO THE CONSTABLES ...

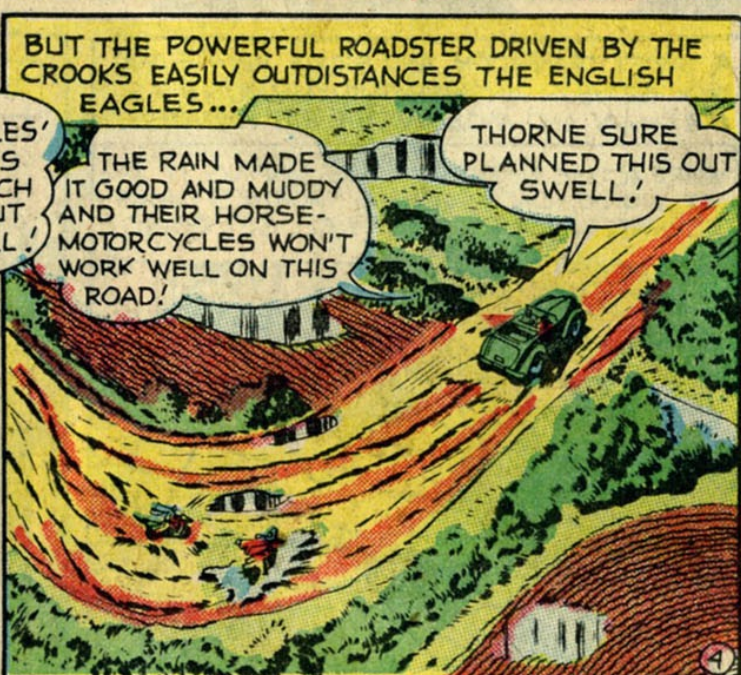
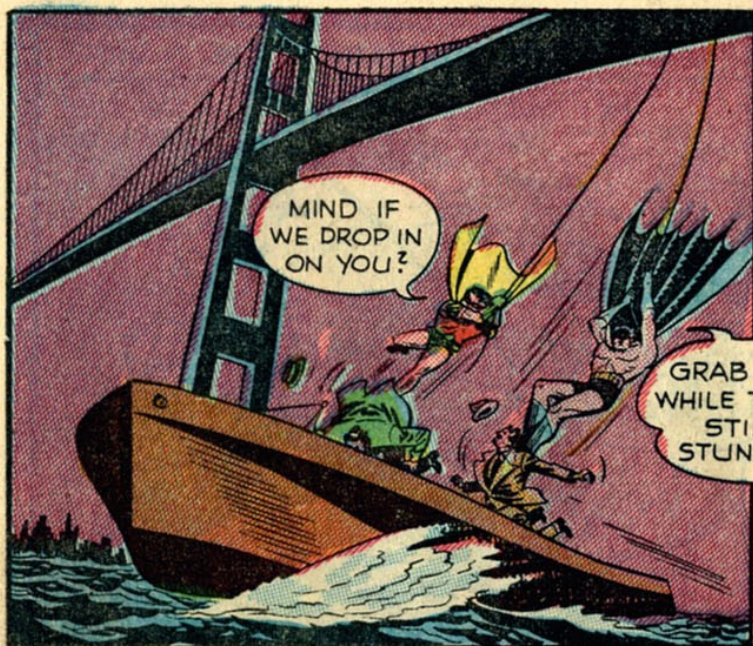


BUT THE WAYS OF FATE ARE STRANGE, AND THE PATHS OF THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE AND OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, ARE SOON TO CROSS! FOR ON THIS VERY NIGHT, ACROSS THE OCEAN IN GOTHAM CITY...



A SWIFT TRANSITION, AND BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ANSWER THE SUMMONS AS BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!







BATMAN

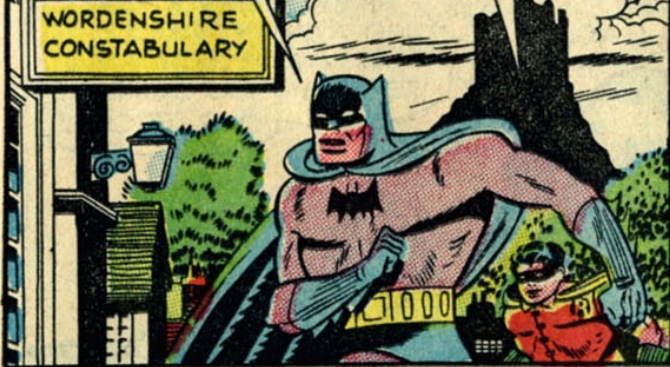


BACK IN THE VILLAGE, TWO FAMOUS VISITORS HAVE JUST ARRIVED...

FIRST WE'LL FIND OUT IF THE POLICE HERE HAVE SEEN MATT THORNE!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT CRIME COULD COME TO THIS QUANT OLD VILLAGE!

WORDENSHIRE CONSTABULARY



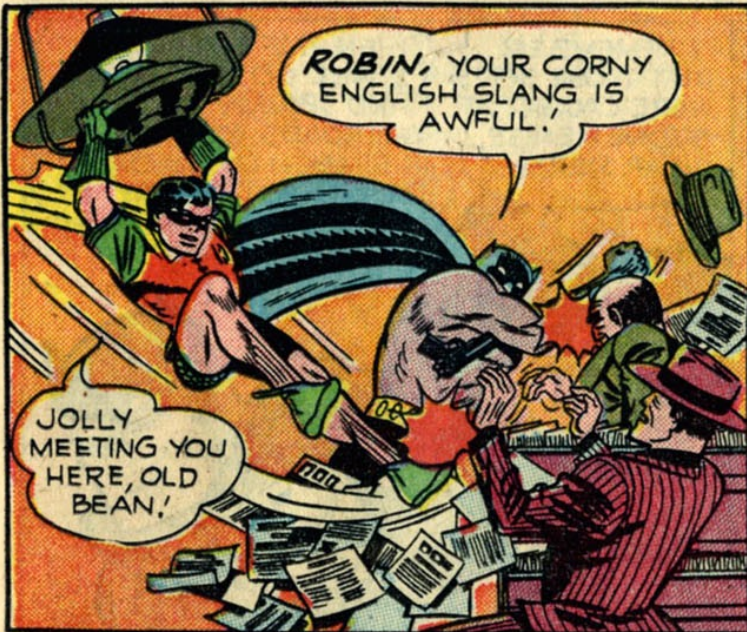
THORNE! HE'S ROBBING THE POLICE STATION!

WE DECEYED AWAY THOSE HICK ENGLISH COPS AND *THE KNIGHT AND SQUIRE*, AND NOW *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* SHOW UP!



ROBIN, YOUR CORNY ENGLISH SLANG IS AWFUL!

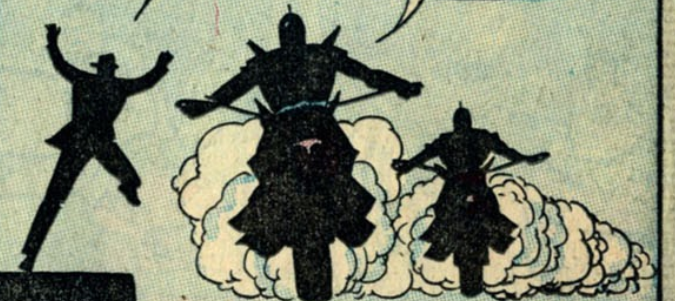
JOLLY MEETING YOU HERE, OLD BEAN!



AT THAT MOMENT, AS THE BRITISH CRIME-BUSTERS RETURN EMPTY-HANDED...

I SAW STRANGERS GO INTO THE POLICE STATION, AND THERE'S A ROW GOING ON IN THERE!

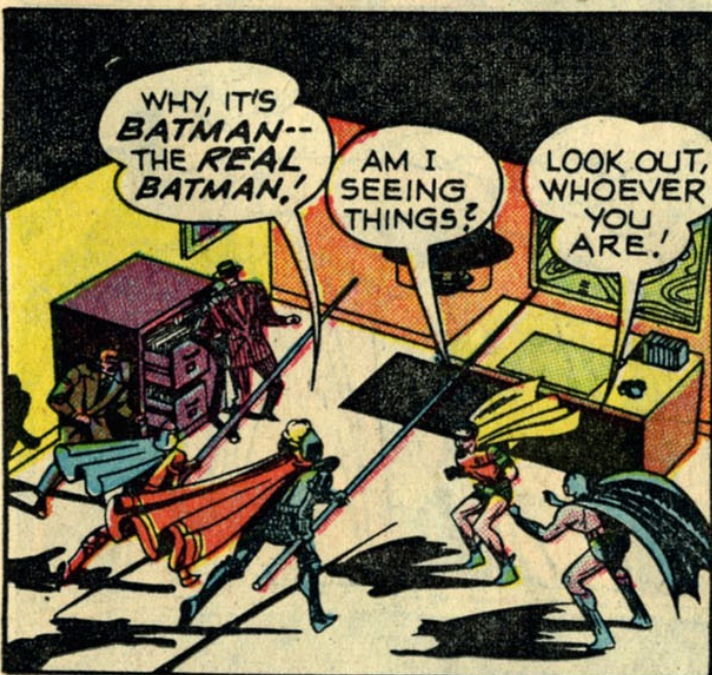
SO THAT'S WHY THOSE CROOKS LURED US AND THE CONSTABLES AWAY! COME ON, MY SQUIRE!



WHY, IT'S *BATMAN*--THE REAL *BATMAN*!

AM I SEEING THINGS?

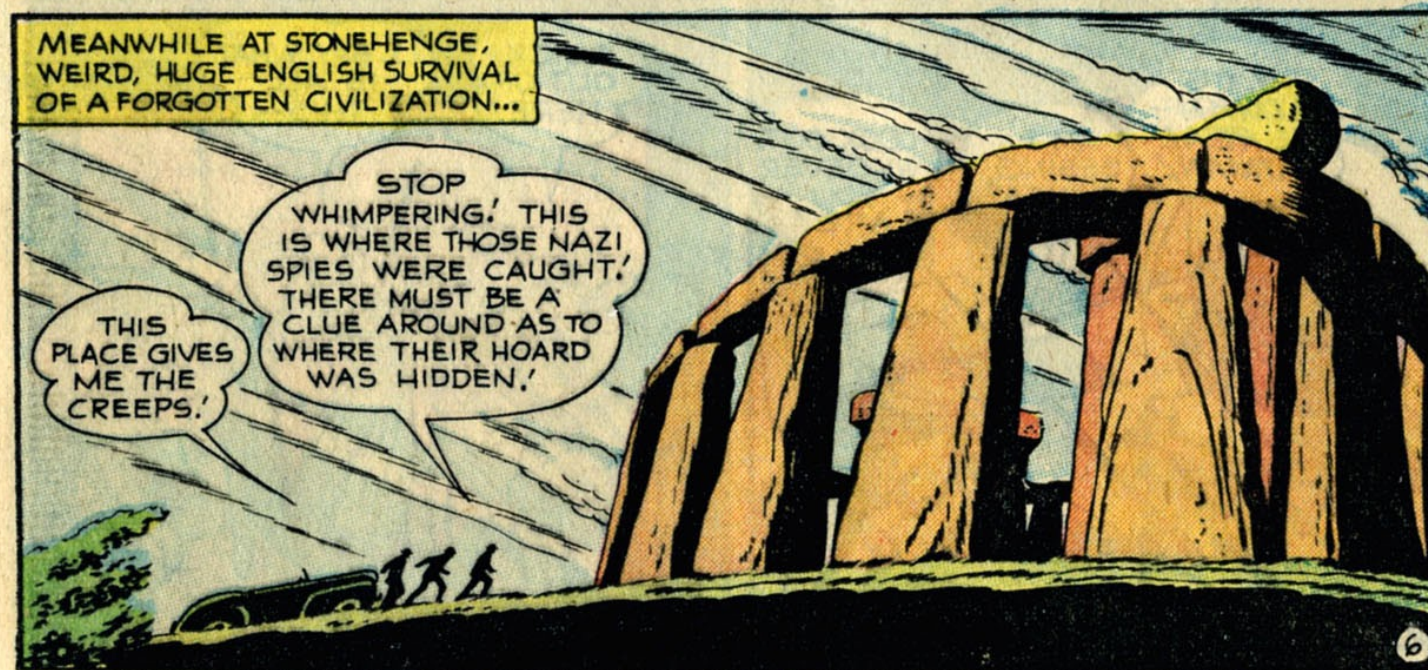
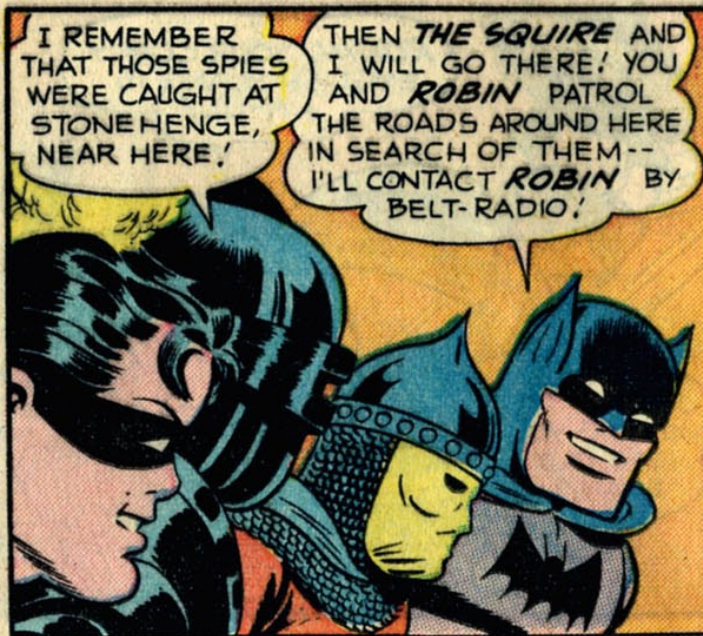
LOOK OUT, WHOEVER YOU ARE!

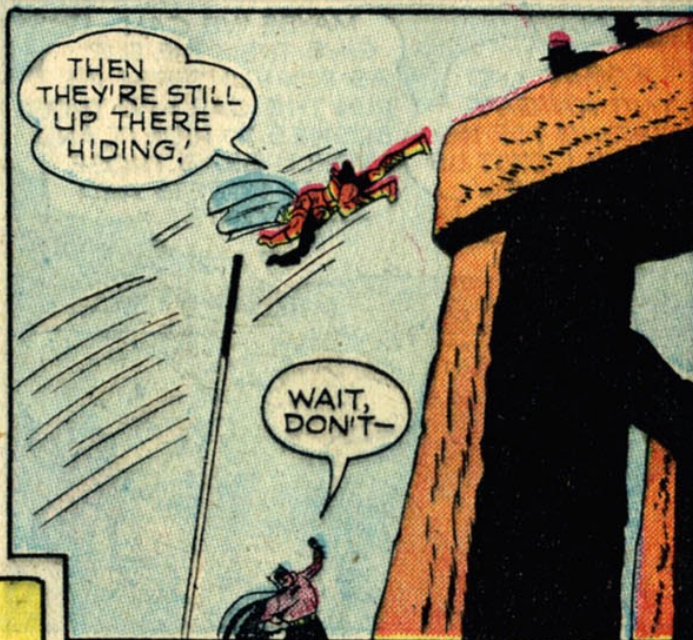
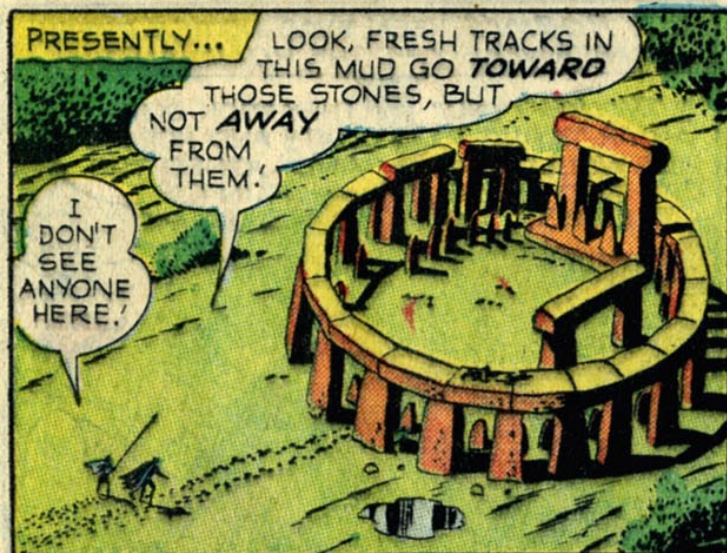
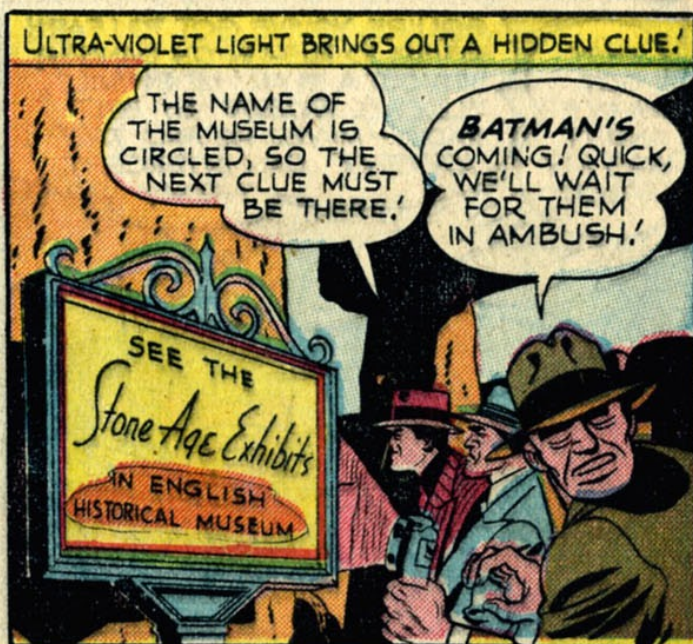
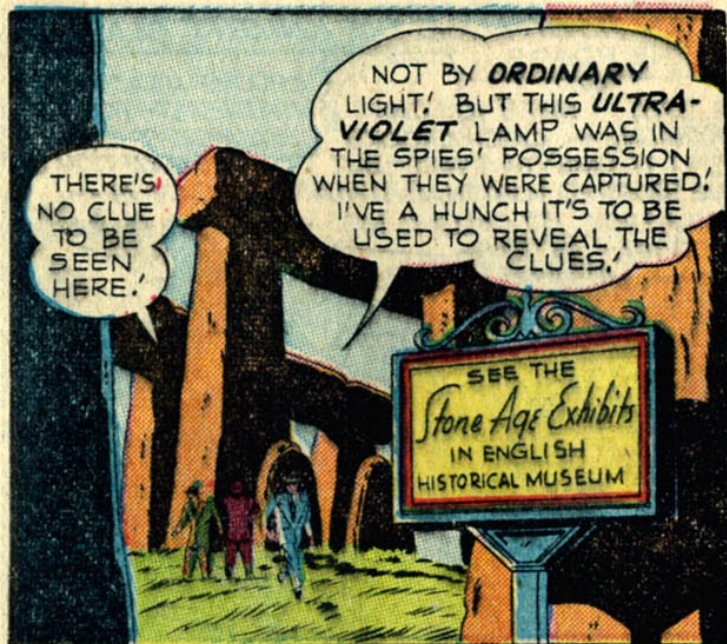


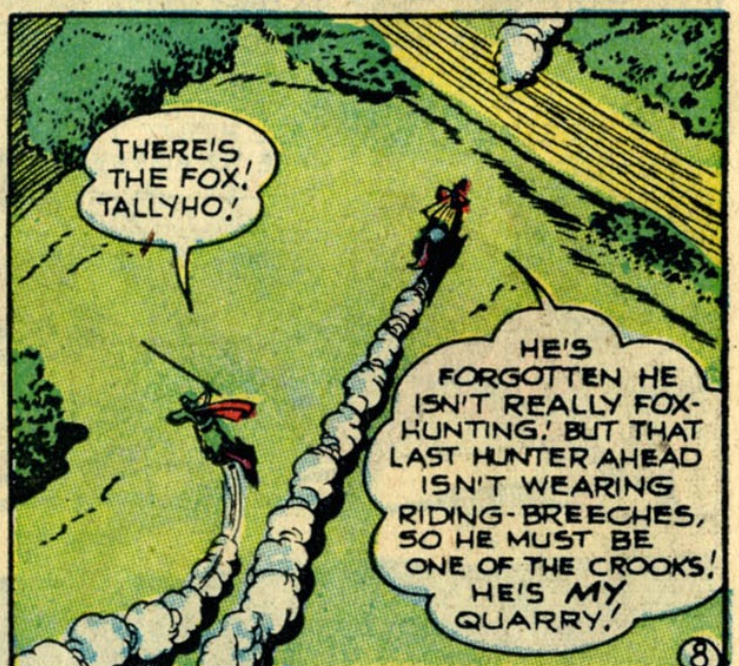
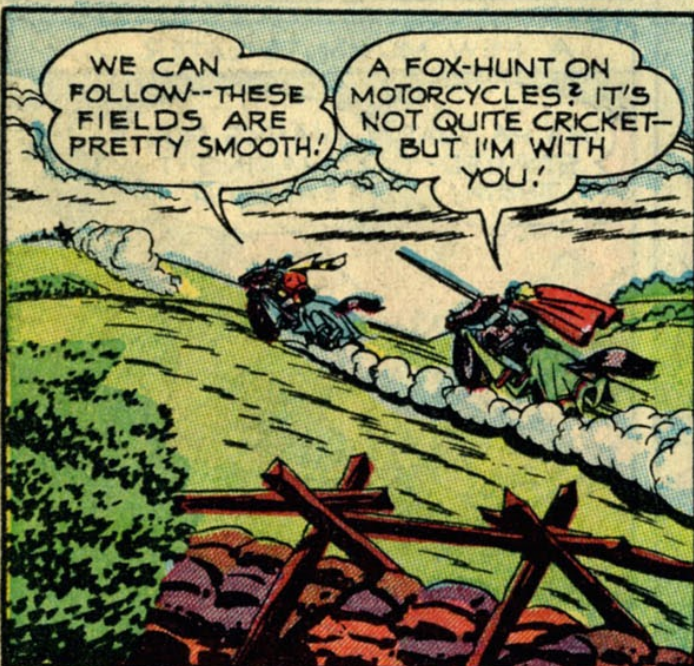
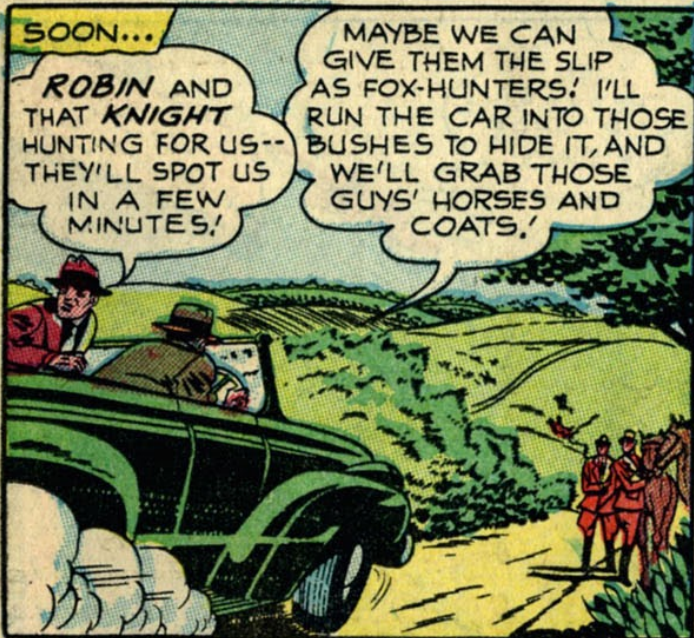
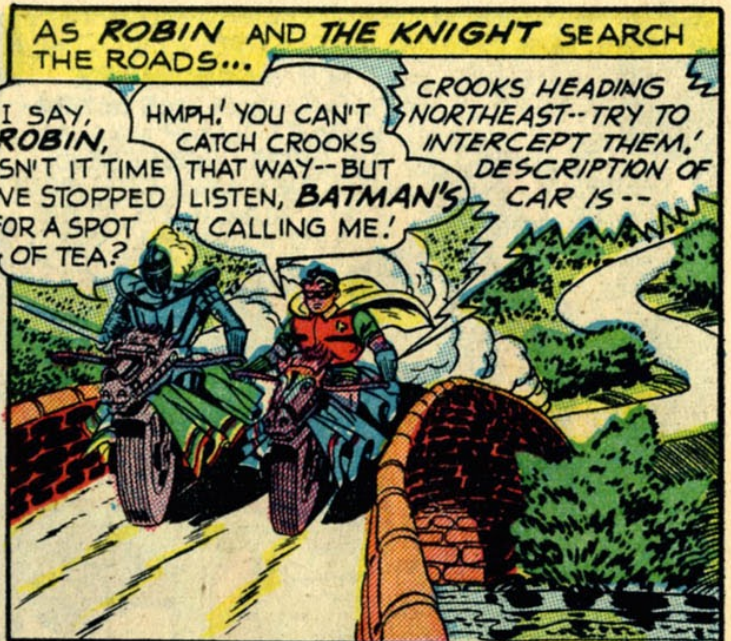
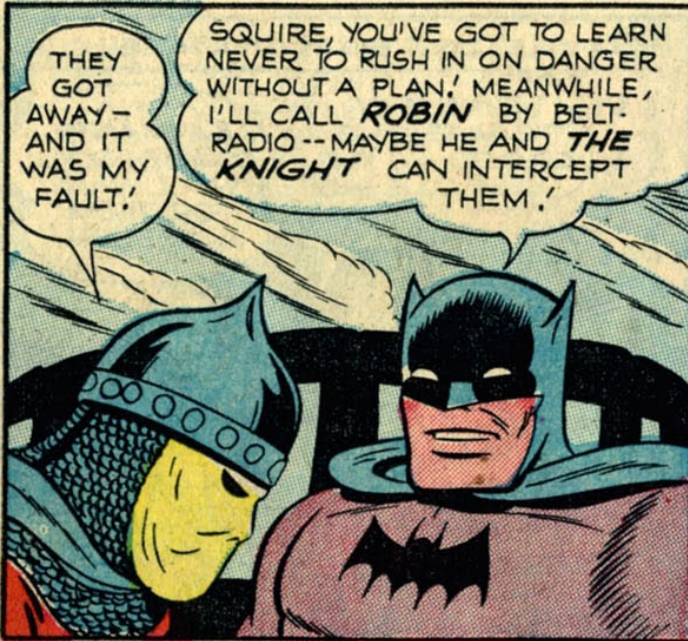
QUICK, OUT OF HERE!

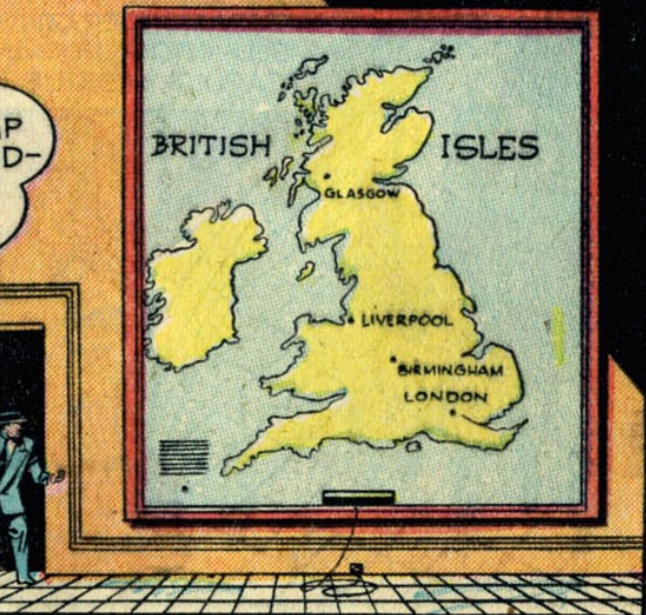
I SAY, WHAT IS ALL THIS--

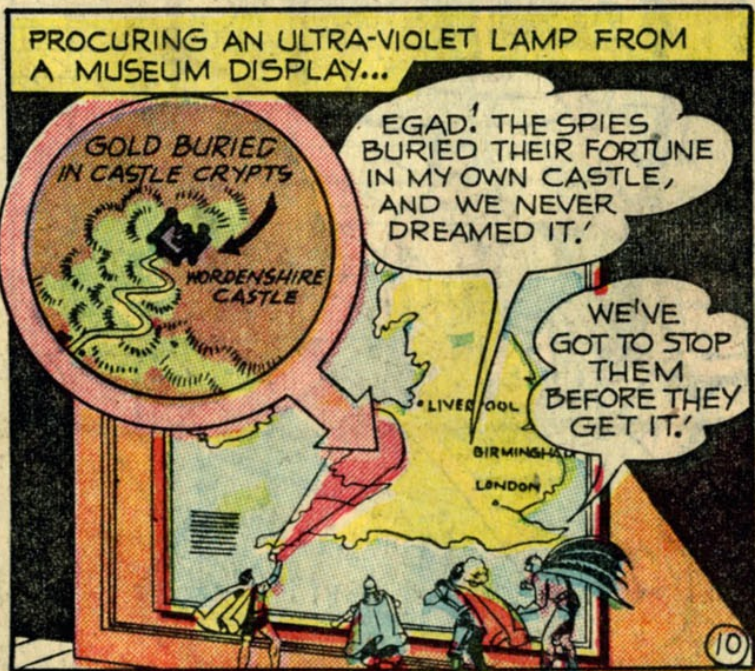
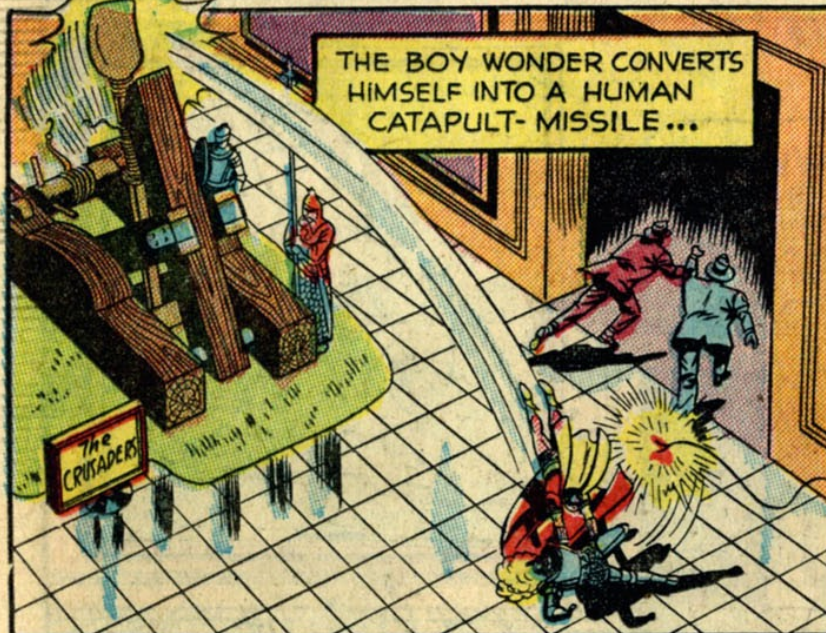
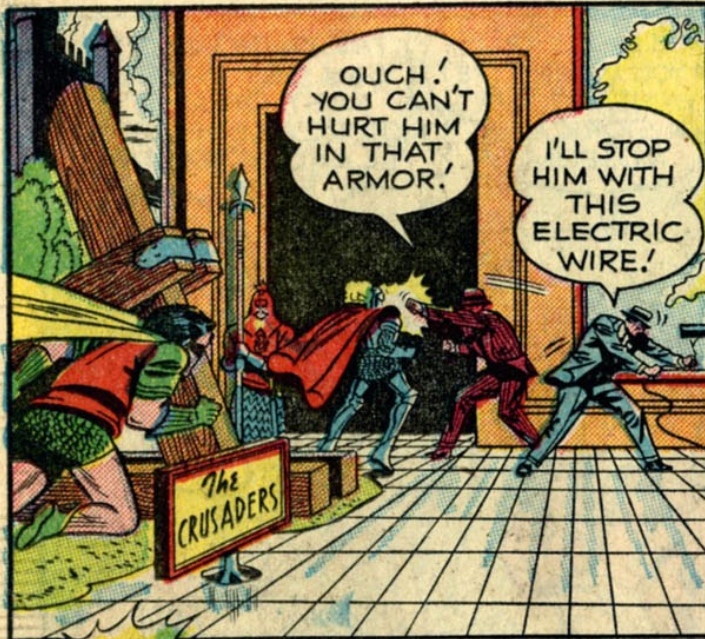


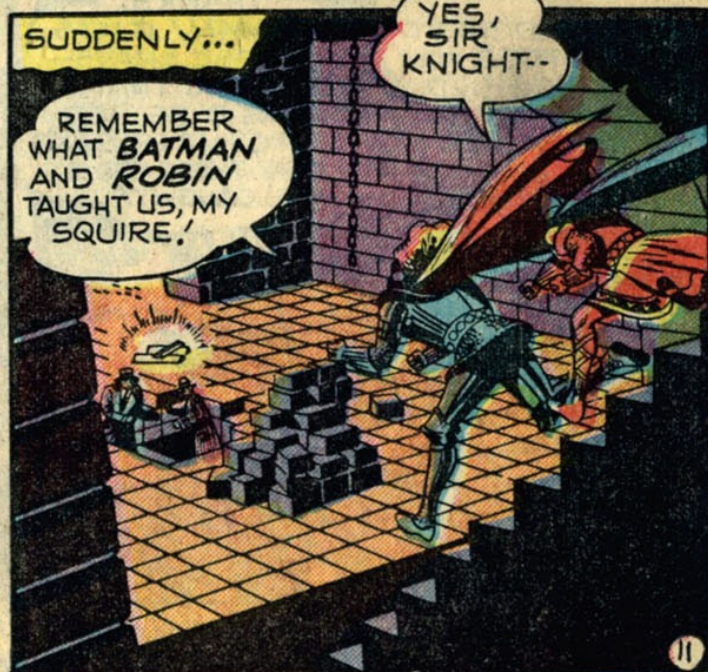
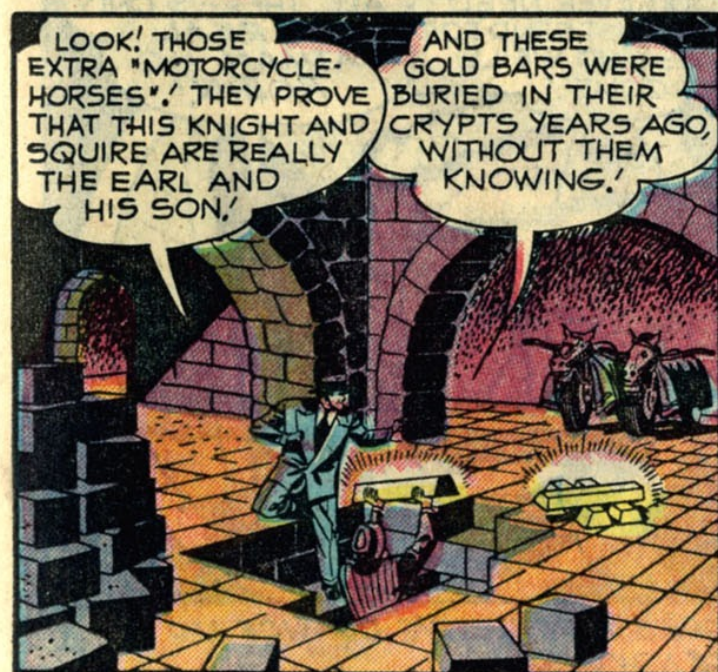
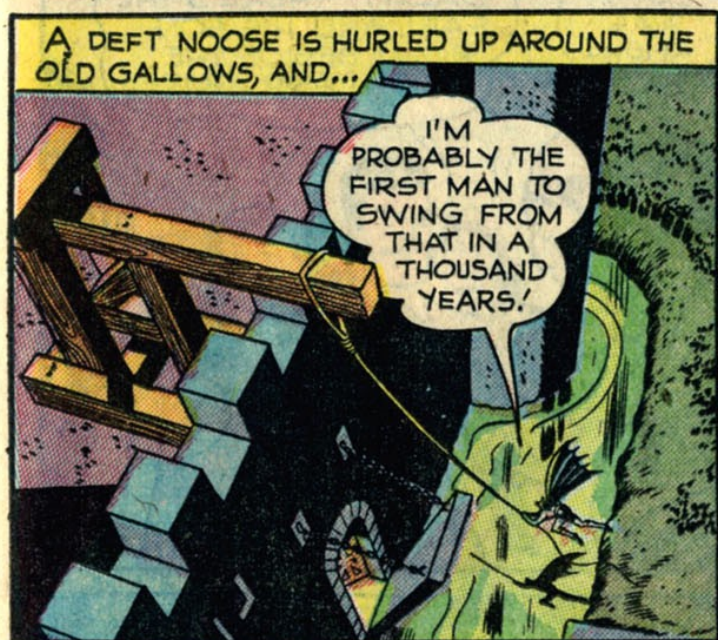
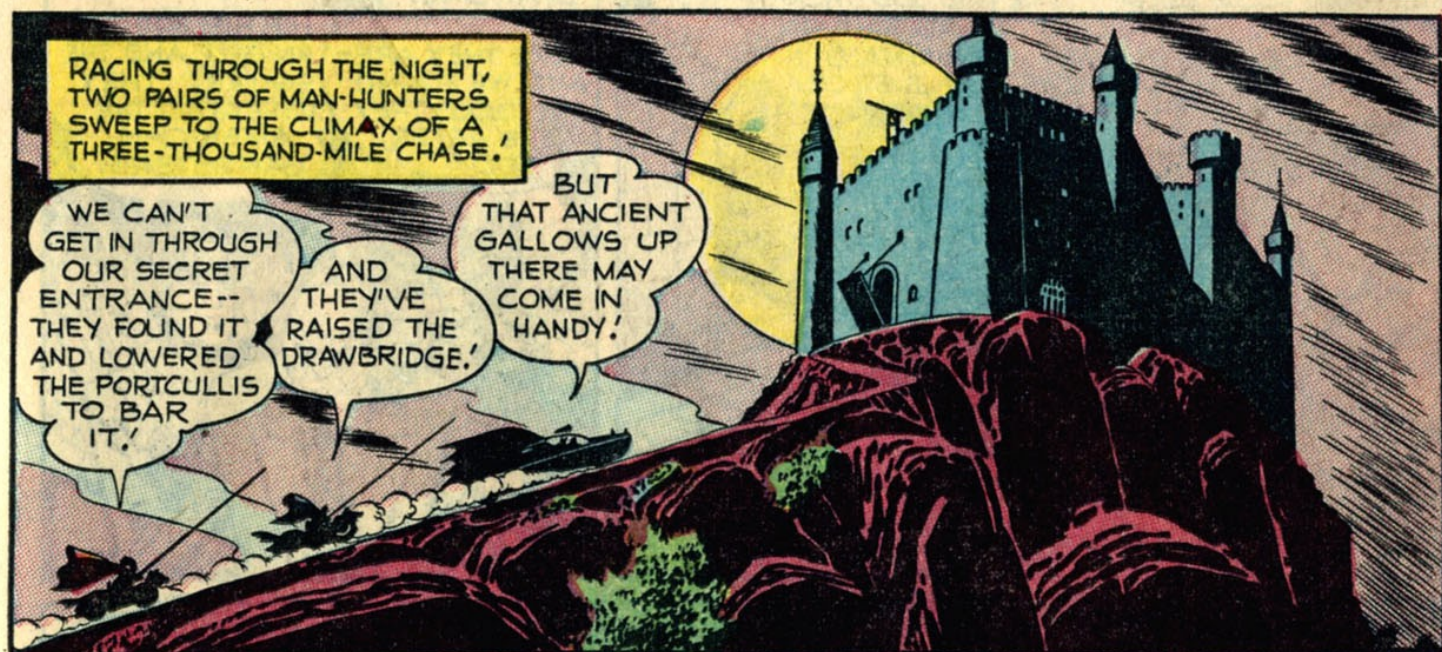






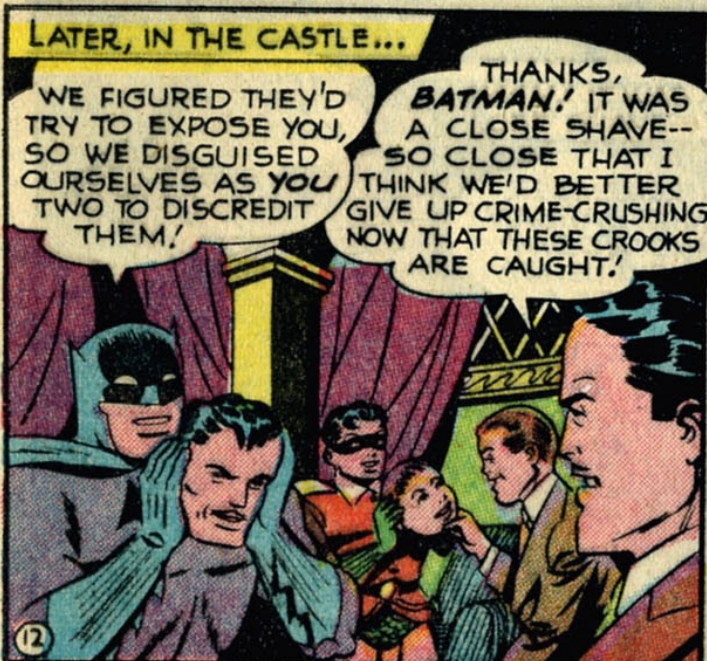
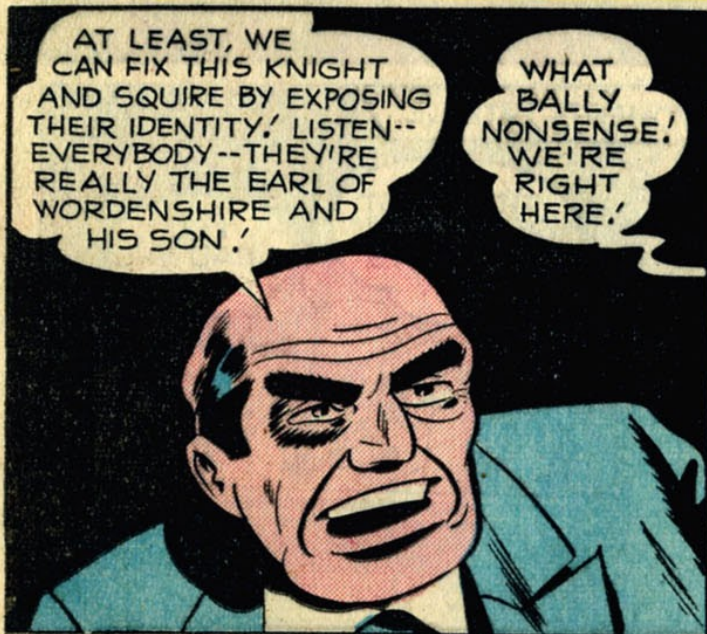








BATMAN



MORE BATTLING BATMAN AND ROBIN STORIES IN DETECTIVE COMICS AND WORLD'S FINEST COMICS NOW ON SALE



NO.65

52 BIG PAGES

JUNE...JULY



10¢

BATMAN

IS THE
CATWOMAN
AN ALLY OF THE
DYNAMIC DUO
OR HAS SHE
RETURNED TO CRIME?
YOU BE THE JURY
TO DECIDE, AS
GOTHAM CITY BOWS

TO...
**"THE EMPRESS
of the
Underworld!"**





BATMAN



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER -

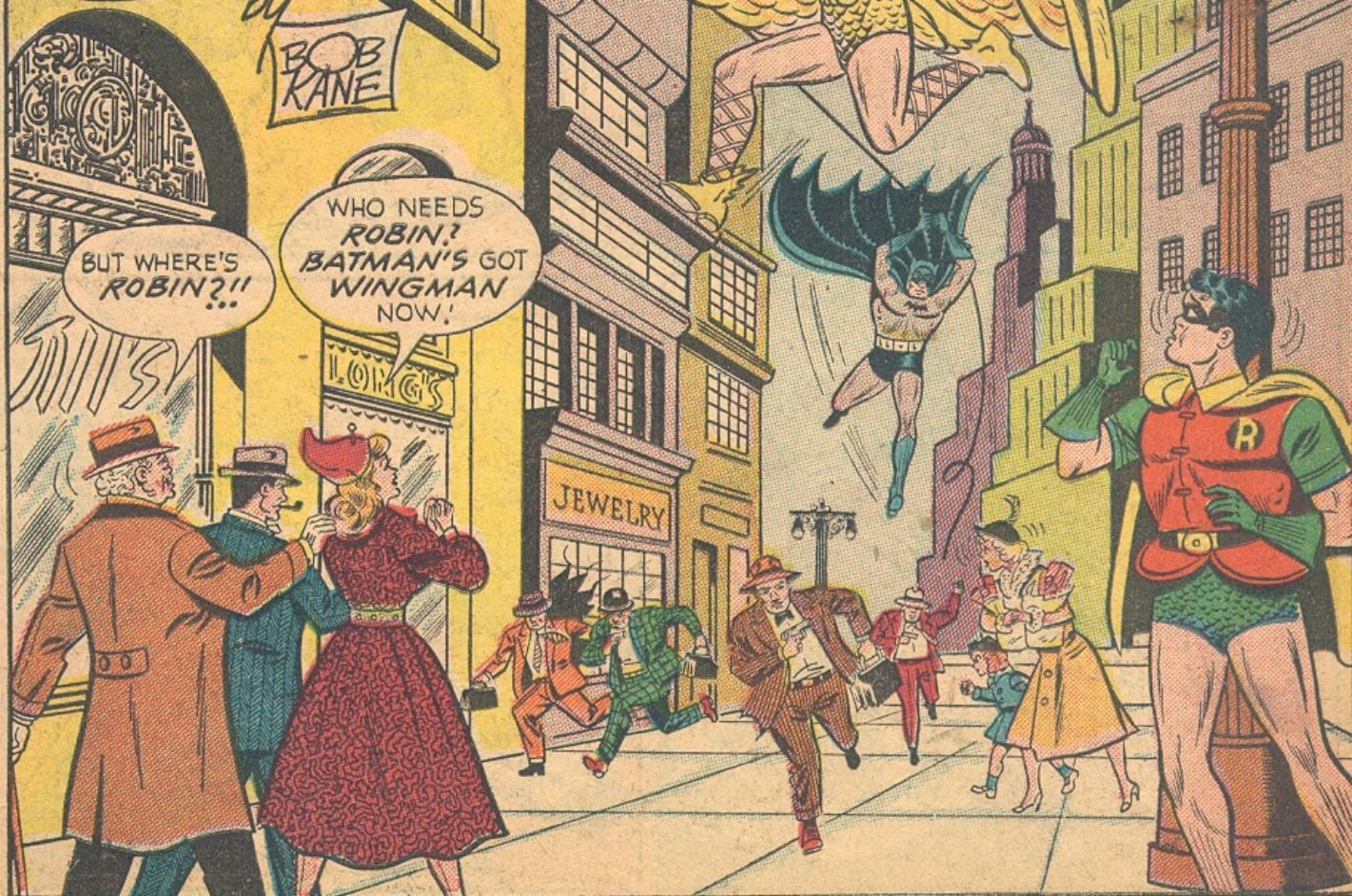
FOR MANY YEARS, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH THE THICK AND THIN OF BATTLES AGAINST CRIME. CAN IT BE THAT AT LONG LAST THE PARTNERSHIP IS TO BE DISSOLVED ?!! WHO IS THIS **WINGMAN** WHO SOARS THROUGH THE NIGHT AS **BATMAN'S** NEW ALLY -- DOING THE JOBS THAT **ROBIN** ONCE DID ?!! THE SURPRISING ANSWERS ARE ALL HERE -- IN THE TENSE STORY CALLED --

"A Partner for BATMAN!"

by
BOB KANE

BUT WHERE'S **ROBIN** ?!!

WHO NEEDS **ROBIN** ?
BATMAN'S GOT **WINGMAN** NOW!



ONE NIGHT, IN A GOTHAM CITY SHIPYARD, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER PATROL THE SLEEPING METROPOLIS...

LOOK--THERE'S THE DEXTER GANG! THEY'RE CLIMBING THAT ROPE LADDER!

THEY'VE MADE A MISTAKE! WE CAN TRAP THEM ON THE DECK OF THAT HULL, **ROBIN**-- I KNOW A FASTER WAY OF GETTING UP THERE!

THIS IS A NICE, **HANDY** WAY TO TRAVEL!

WE'LL ATTACK THEM HEAD-ON! THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS THE END OF THE DEXTER GANG!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN**! HOW'D THEY GET HERE SO FAST!

IN A BRIEF BUT FURIOUS STRUGGLE, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** OVERCOME THEIR OPPONENTS. THEN...

I'LL TIE THEM UP! **ROBIN**, GET DOWN TO A PHONE AND CALL THE POLICE.

RIGHT!

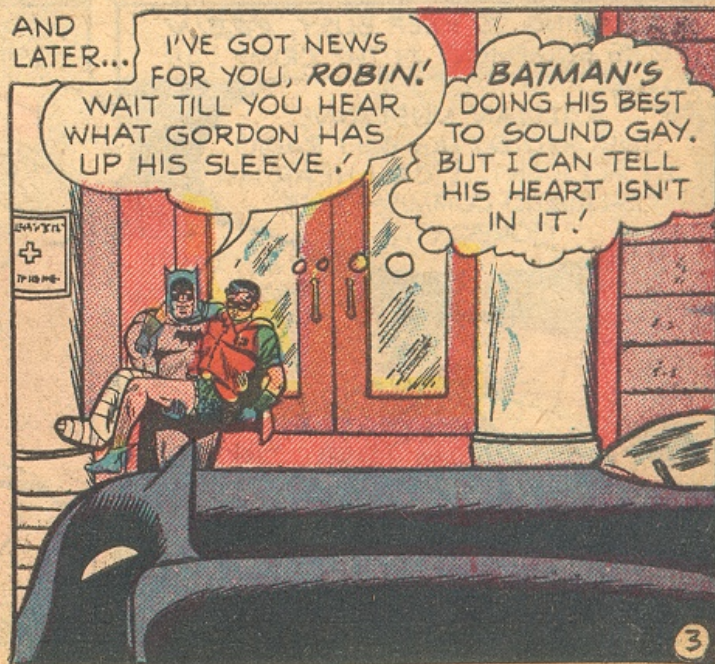
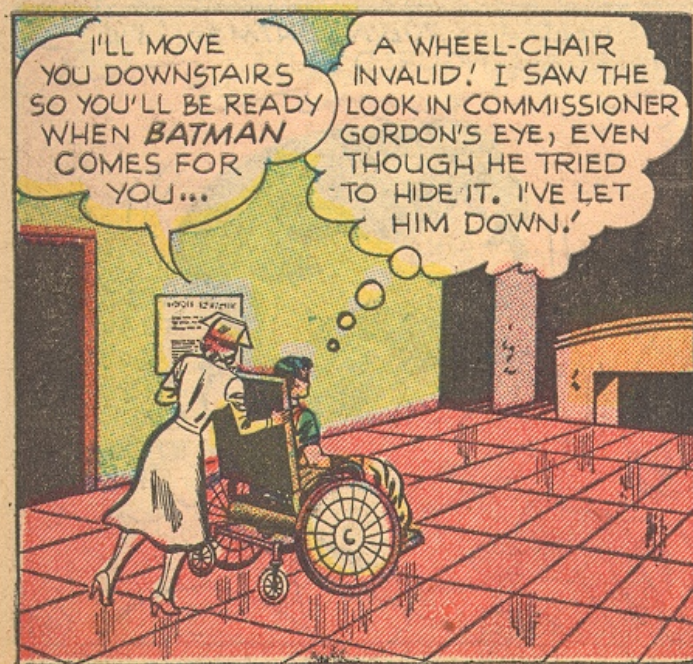
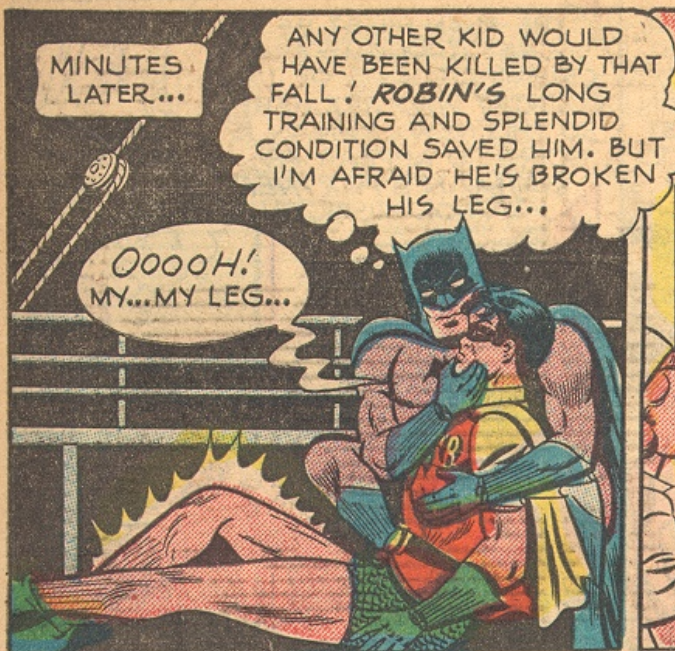
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS, THE BOY WONDER FAILS TO SEE A SPOT OF OIL-SLICK ON THE DECK, AND...

BATMAN! I SLIPPED-- I CAN'T STOP!

ROBIN! GO LIMP! GO LIMP, **ROBIN**... AND RIDE WITH THE FALL! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!

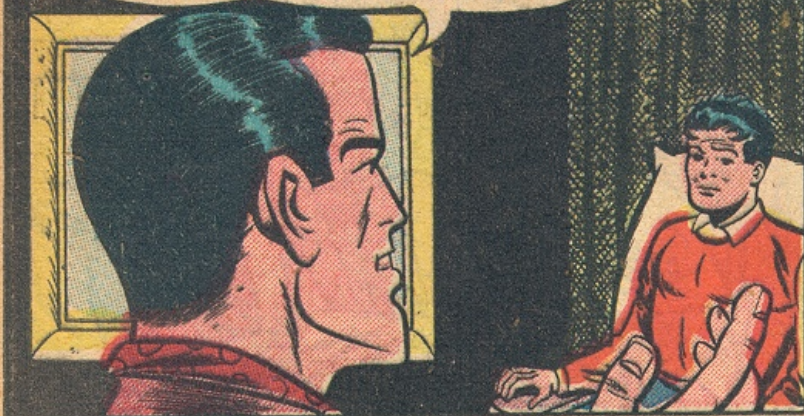
AND THEN...

THE POOR KID! THE POOR KID!



THEN, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** REVERT BACK TO THE ROLES OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

A CERTAIN NORTHERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN AN URGENT REQUEST FOR A COUNTERPART OF **BATMAN**! I'M GOING TO TRAIN ONE FROM AMONG THEIR NATURALIZED CITIZENS RESIDING HERE!



THE PLAN MUST BE KEPT SECRET, THOUGH-- FROM CRIMINAL AGENTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO ARE HERE. SO THIS NEW LAWMAN IS GOING TO APPEAR AS **BATMAN'S PARTNER** -- TO AVOID SUSPICION.

BATMAN'S PARTNER! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT I WAS!



IT'LL WORK OUT SWELL! WITH YOU LAID UP, IT WOULD SEEM A NATURAL THING FOR ME TO TAKE ON SOMEONE ELSE TEMPORARILY.

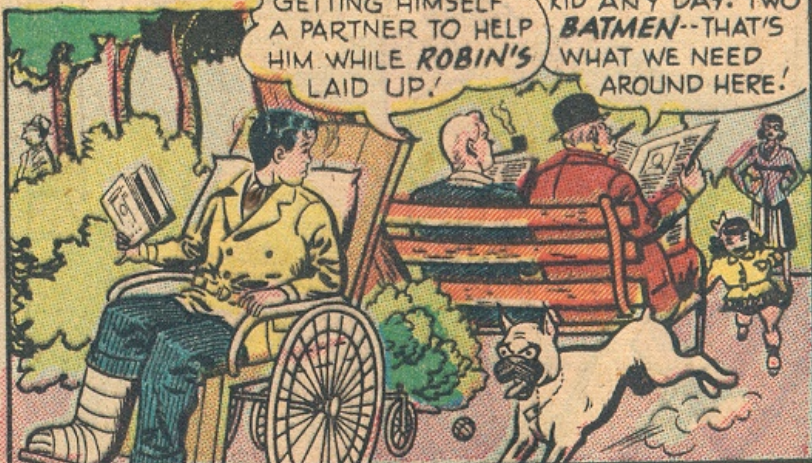
IT'S *TOO* SWELL! I WISH I COULD BELIEVE HIM, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M BEING EASED OUT OF THE PICTURE...



AND NEXT DAY, WHILE DICK RECUPERATES IN GOTHAM PARK...

DID YOU SEE THE PAPER? **BATMAN'S** GETTING HIMSELF A PARTNER TO HELP HIM WHILE **ROBIN'S** LAID UP!

YEAH! IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S A SMART MOVE! A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY! TWO **BATMEN**--THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AROUND HERE!



THAT EVENING, TO KEEP BUSY, **ROBIN** CHECKS EQUIPMENT IN THE CRIME LAB AS...

BATMAN MUST HAVE SWITCHED ON HIS BELT RADIO BY ACCIDENT. I CAN HEAR HIM SPEAKING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON...

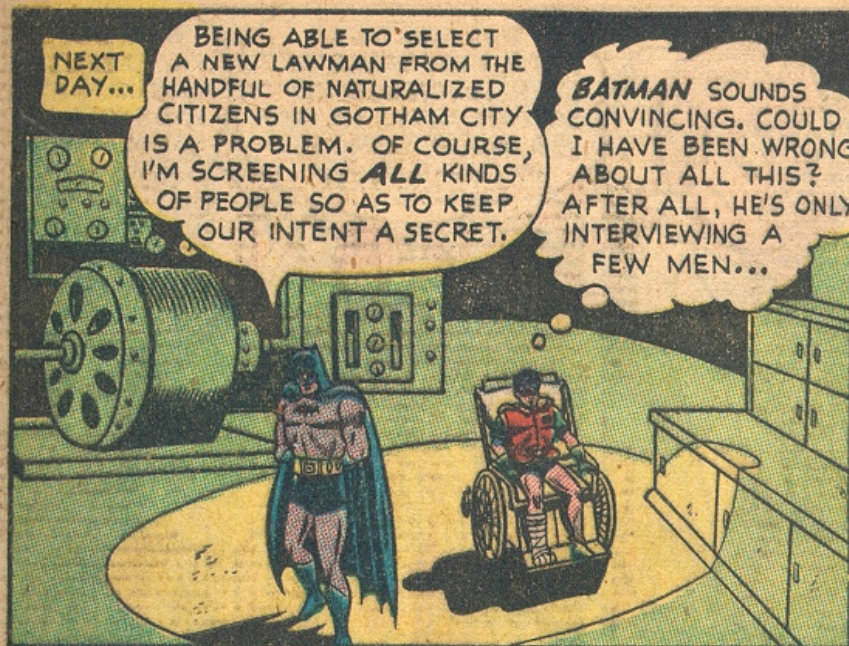
BUT WHAT ABOUT **ROBIN**, COMMISSIONER?



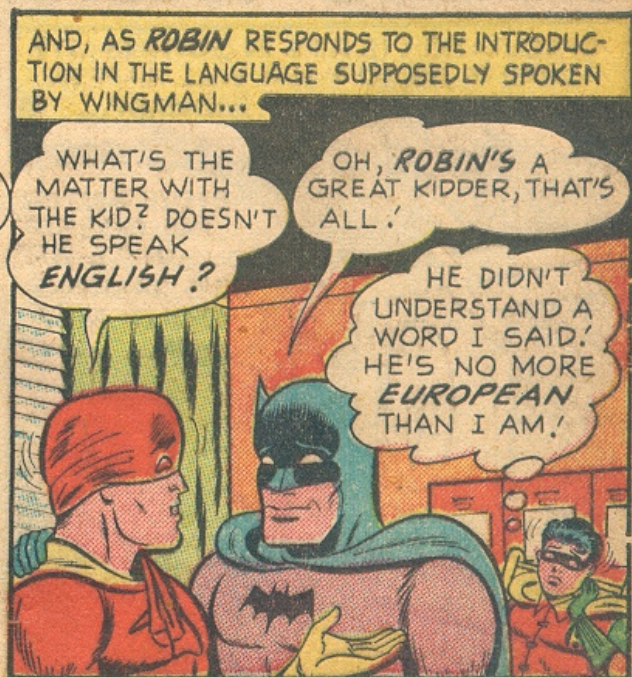
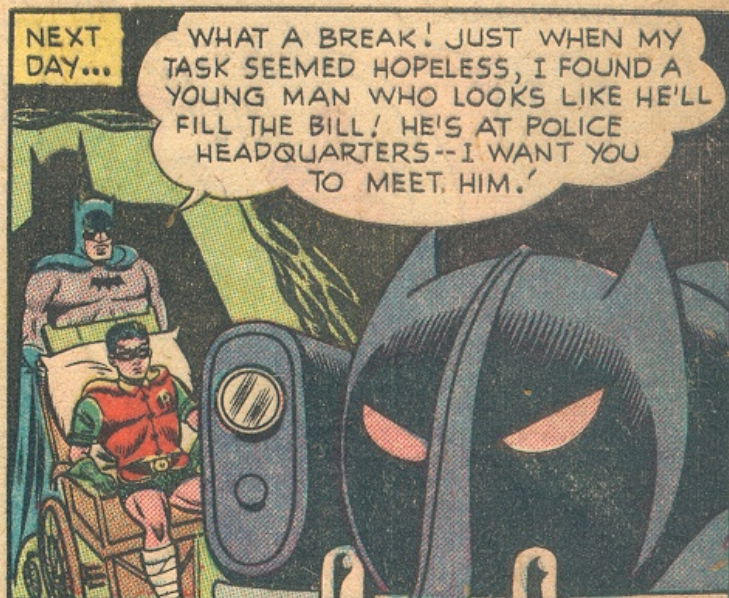
WE DON'T NEED ANY **ROBIN**, **BATMAN**! I'VE GOT THINGS ALL FIGURED OUT!

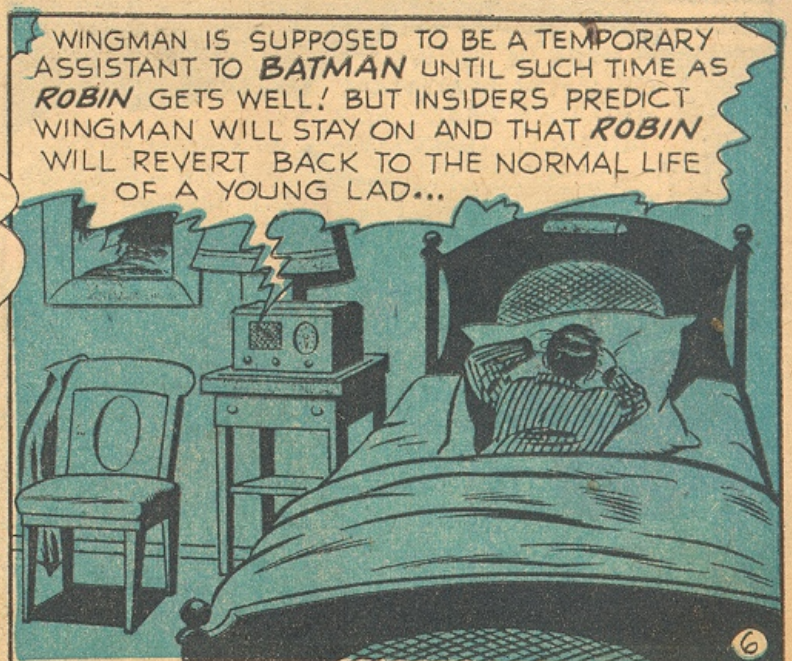
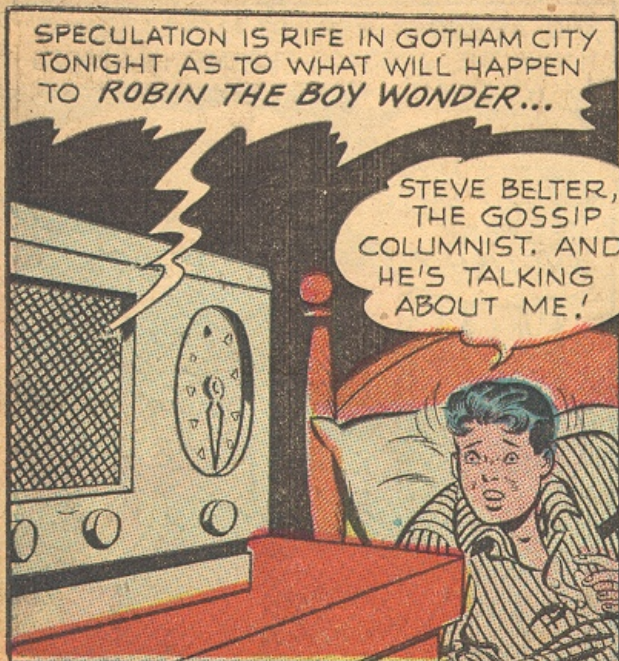
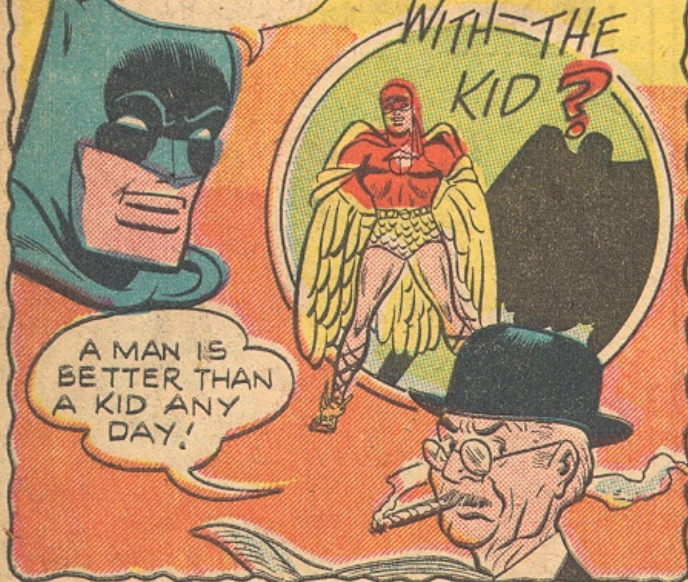
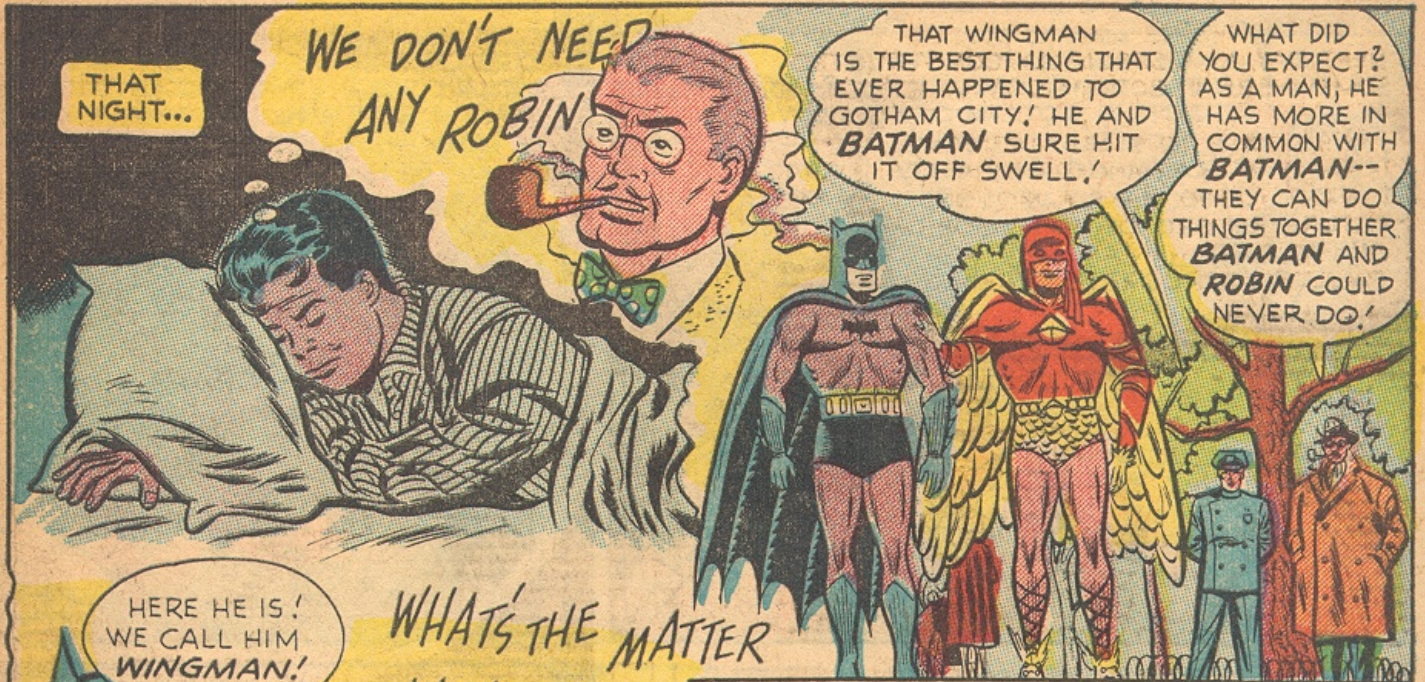


JUST AS I FEARED! (SOB!) THEY'RE PLANNING TO DROP ME!



AND, IN **ROBIN'S** SPARE MOMENTS...

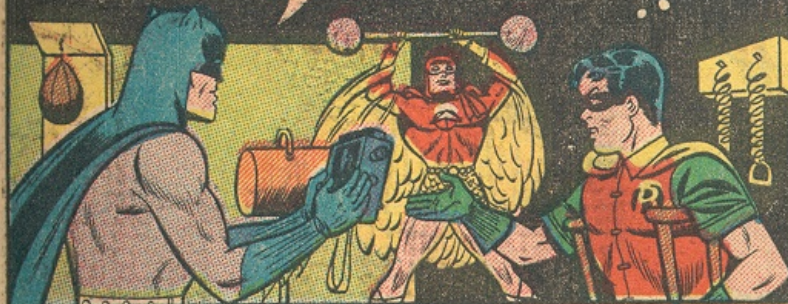




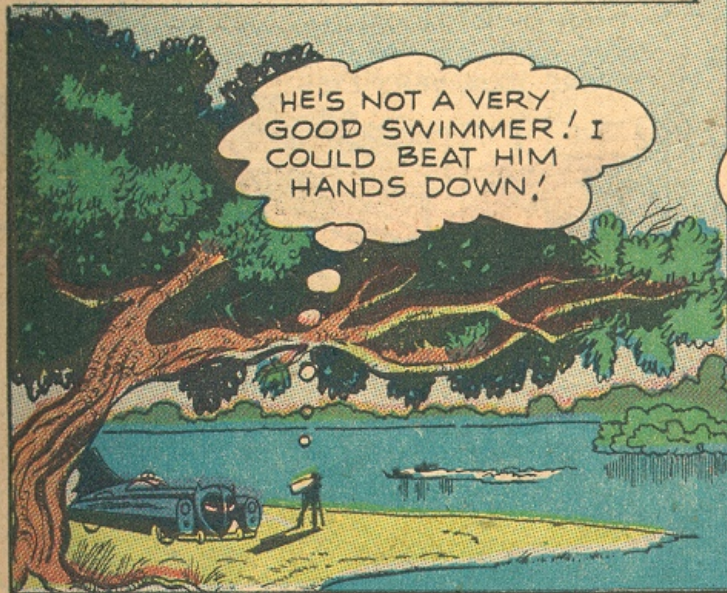
NEXT DAY, IN A SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED GYMNASIUM SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY...

WE'RE GOING TO START WINGMAN'S TRAINING WITH ADVANCED GYMNASTICS. I WANT YOU TO MAKE A MOTION PICTURE RECORD OF WHAT GOES ON, SO THAT WE CAN SPOT HIS FAULTS AND CORRECT THEM...

FAULTS! THAT GIVES ME SOME HOPE!

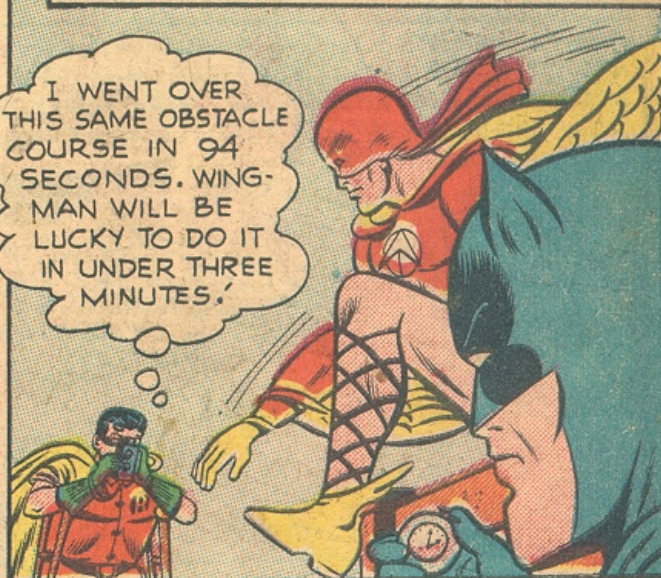


AND, AS WINGMAN'S TRAINING CONTINUES...



HE'S NOT A VERY GOOD SWIMMER! I COULD BEAT HIM HANDS DOWN!

I WENT OVER THIS SAME OBSTACLE COURSE IN 94 SECONDS. WINGMAN WILL BE LUCKY TO DO IT IN UNDER THREE MINUTES!



THEN, AFTER WEEKS HAVE PASSED, AND WINGMAN'S TRAINING IS OVER...

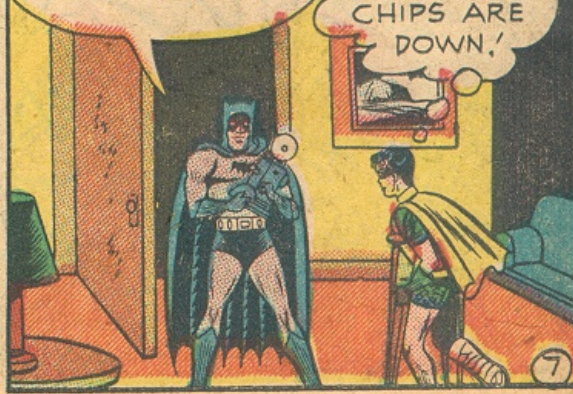
WELL, SOME OF IT'S GOOD, AND SOME OF IT'S BAD-- HE'S STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...

HMM... BATMAN'S BEGINNING TO SEE IT ISN'T GOING TO BE SO EASY TO REPLACE ME!



THE TRUE TEST OF WINGMAN'S ABILITY WILL BE HOW HE REACTS UNDER FIRE! TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT AGAINST CRIME!

I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE! WINGMAN MAY FAIL MISERABLY WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!



AND NEXT EVENING, AS **ROBIN** AWAITS WORD OF **WINGMAN'S** FIRST SORTIE AGAINST CRIME...

MIGHT AS WELL SEE SOME TELEVISION WHILE I WAIT. THE OPERA'S ON TONIGHT...

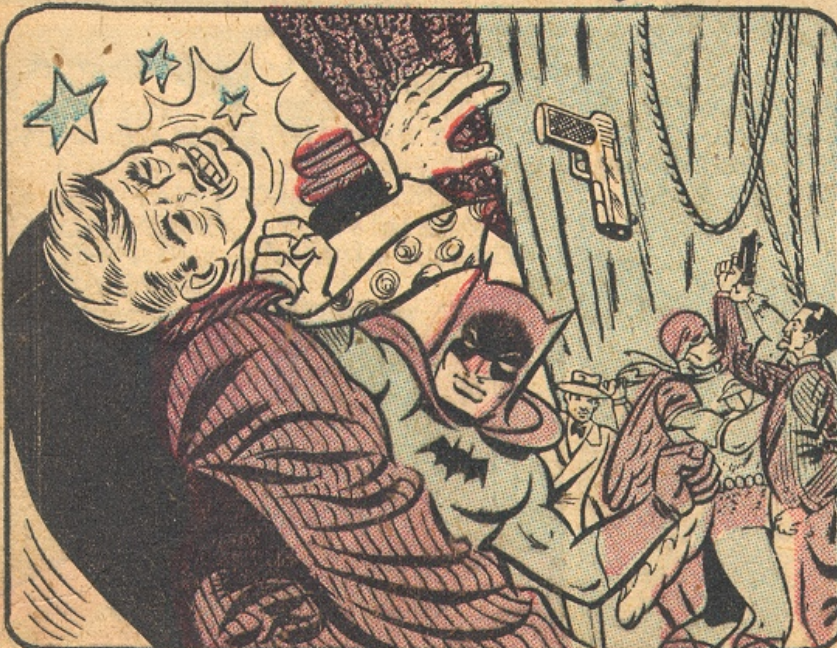
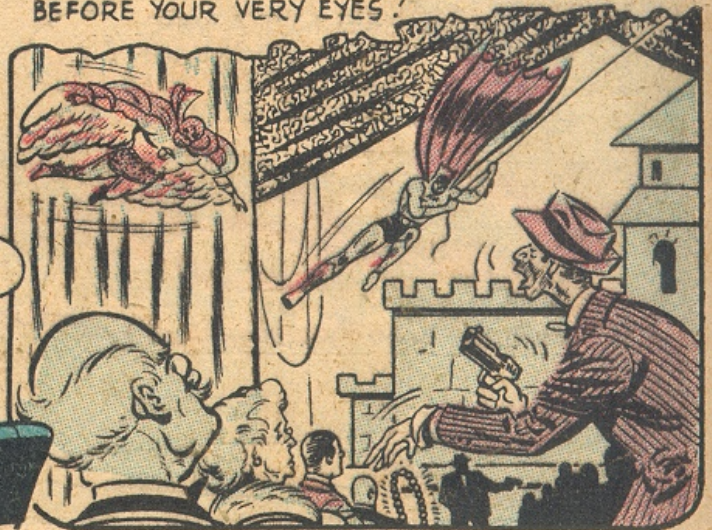
THIS IS THE MOST GALA OPENING NIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHAM OPERA COMPANY! SOCIETY'S "400" HAVE REALLY TURNED OUT TONIGHT!

THEN ALL AT ONCE, DURING THE OPERA'S FIRST ACT...

SUDDENLY... LOOK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! **BATMAN** AND **WINGMAN** HAVE ARRIVED! REAL **DRAMA** IS UNFOLDING BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

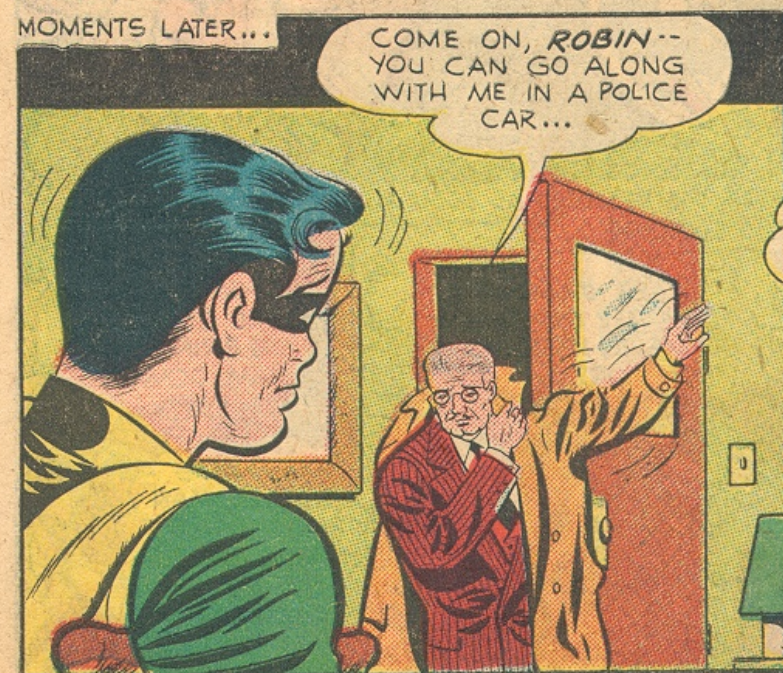
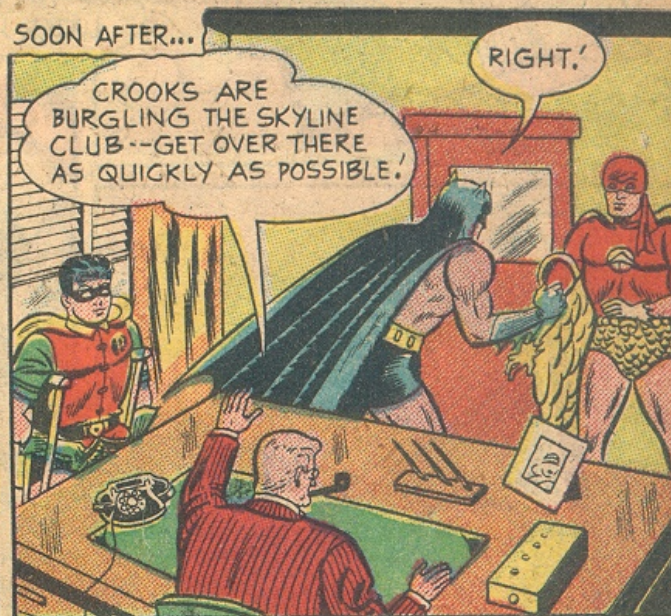
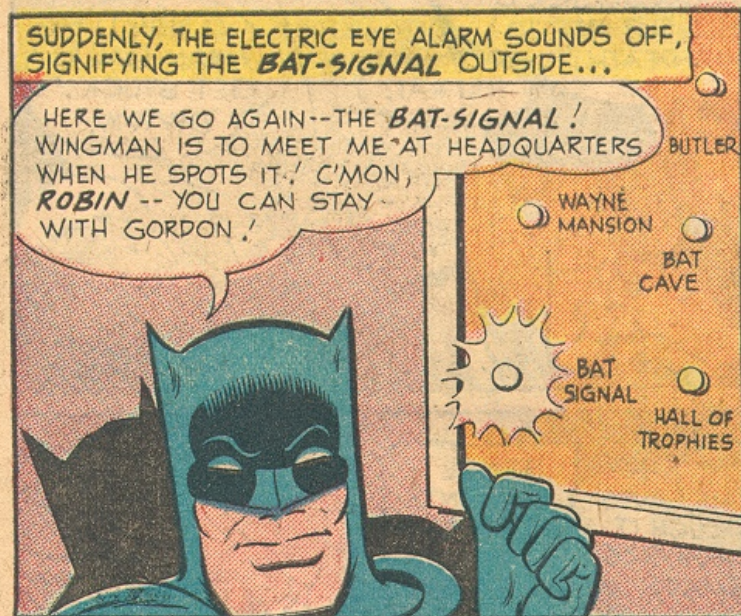
WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A HOLD-UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THIS IS NO GAG! A MOST BRAZEN GANG IS ROBBING THE OPERA AUDIENCE, UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE WHOLE THING IS ON TELEVISION!

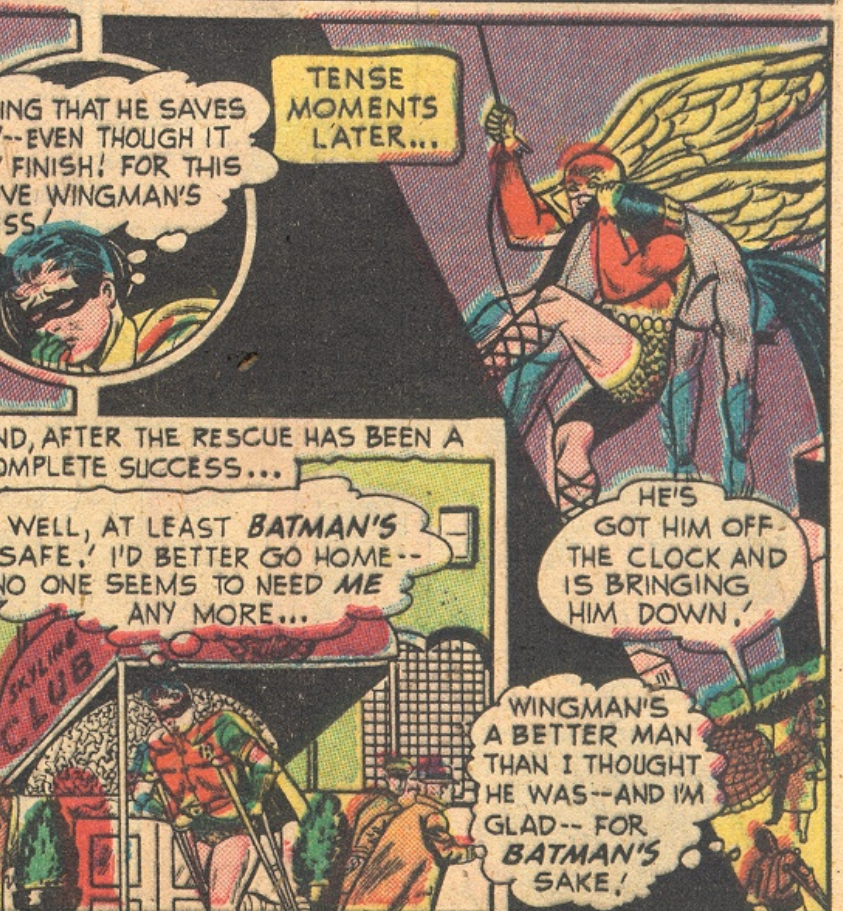
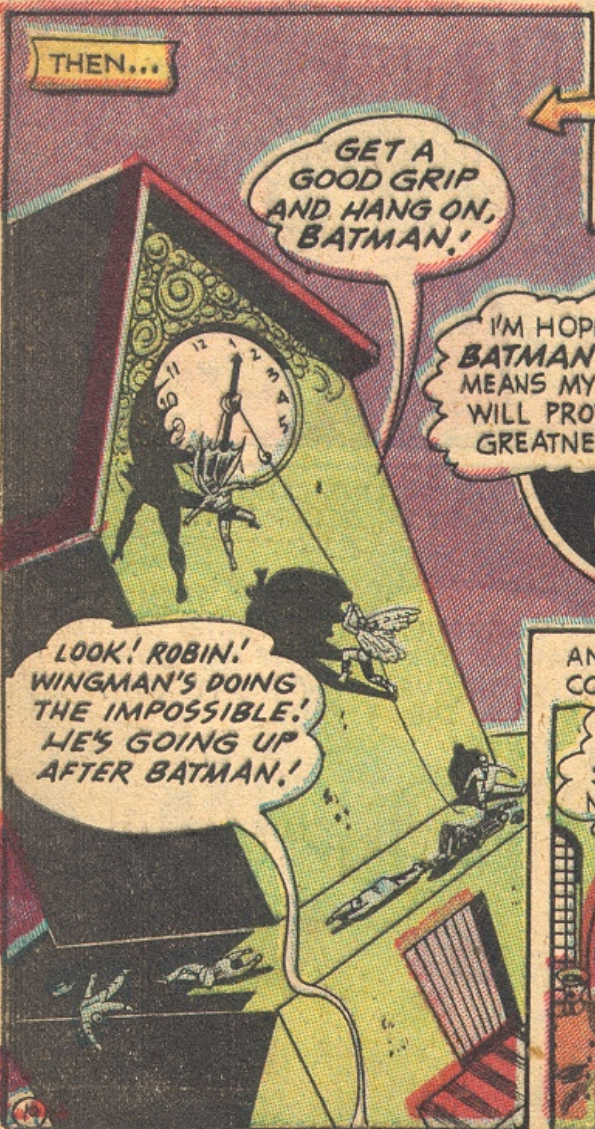
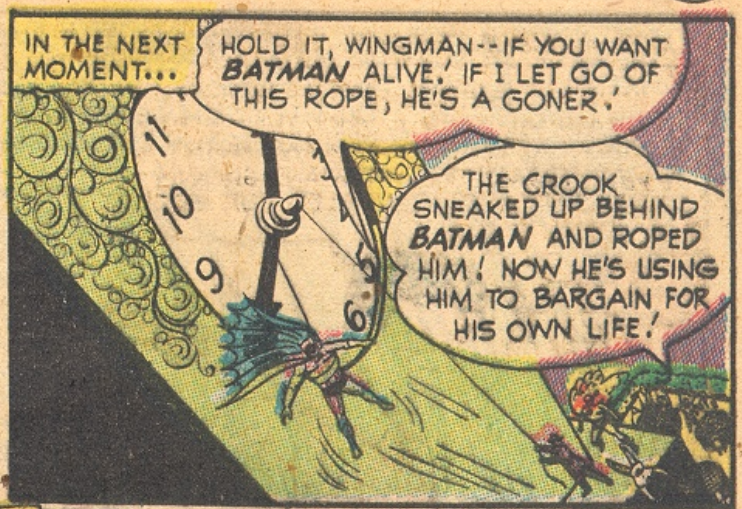
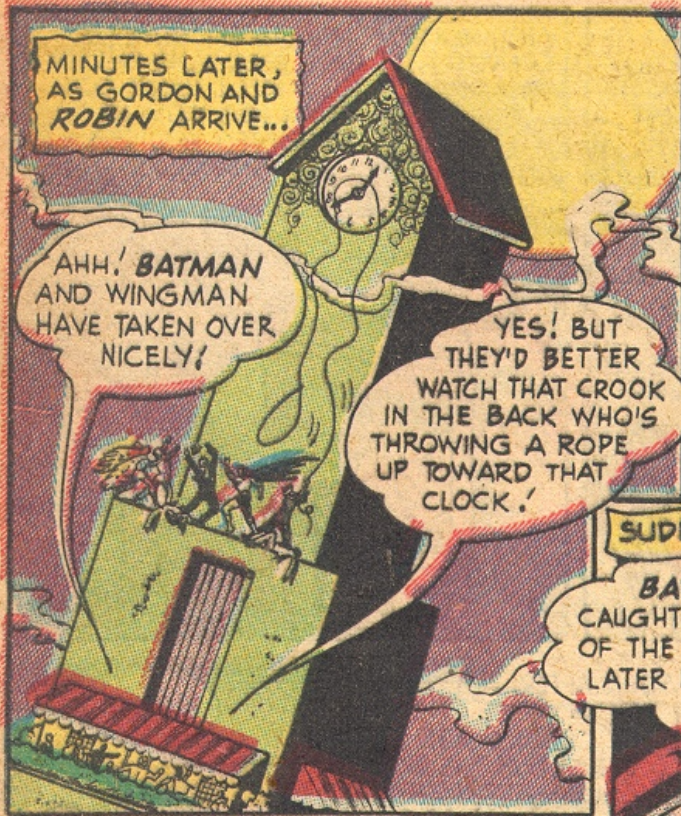
WOW! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS!



WHY DOESN'T **WINGMAN** REACH BACK AND PULL THAT CURTAIN ?!! HE'D CATCH THOSE CROOKS LIKE FISH IN A NET!

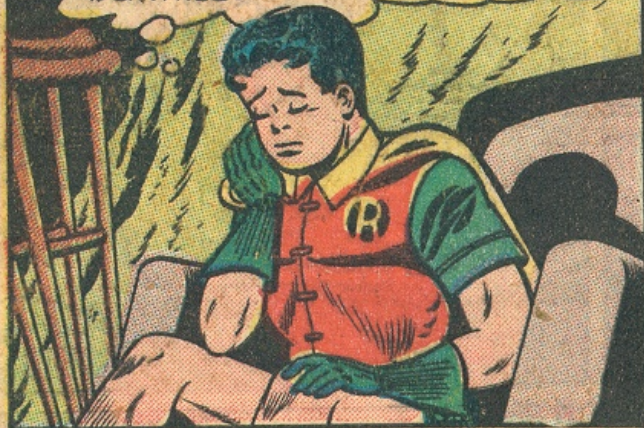






LATER, IN THE **BAT-CAVE...**

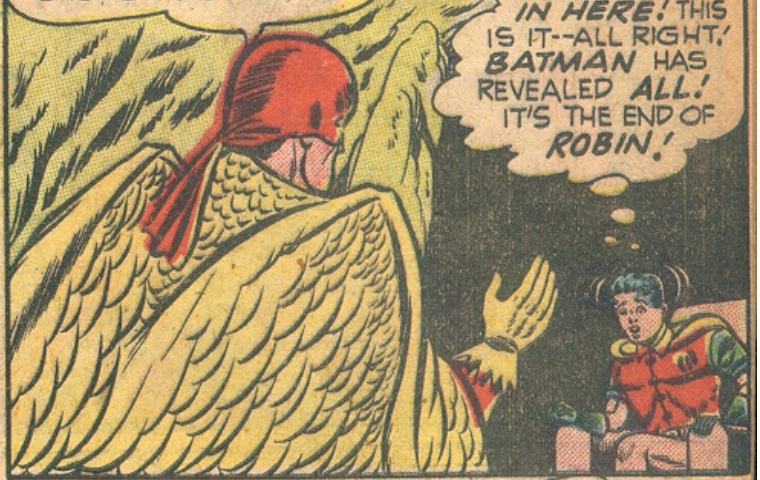
NOW I'VE GOT ONLY ONE STRAW LEFT TO GRASP AT--AND A VERY THIN STRAW AT THAT! AT LEAST **BATMAN** HASN'T TOLD **EVERYTHING** TO **WINGMAN**--SHOWN HIM THIS **BATCAVE**--REVEALED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...



AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO **ROBIN'S** THOUGHTS, **WINGMAN ENTERS THE BAT-CAVE!**

WELL, WELL-- SO **THIS** IS THE **BAT-CAVE**! I CERTAINLY HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT!

WINGMAN--
IN HERE! THIS IS IT--ALL RIGHT, **BATMAN** HAS REVEALED **ALL!** IT'S THE END OF **ROBIN!**



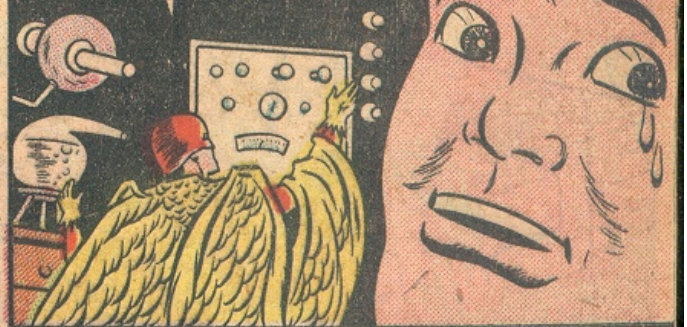
AND YOU'RE **DICK GRAYSON!** BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** REALLY WERE! I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED IN A MILLION YEARS!

ALL RIGHT--YOU KNOW MY SECRETS! NOW--WHO ARE YOU?

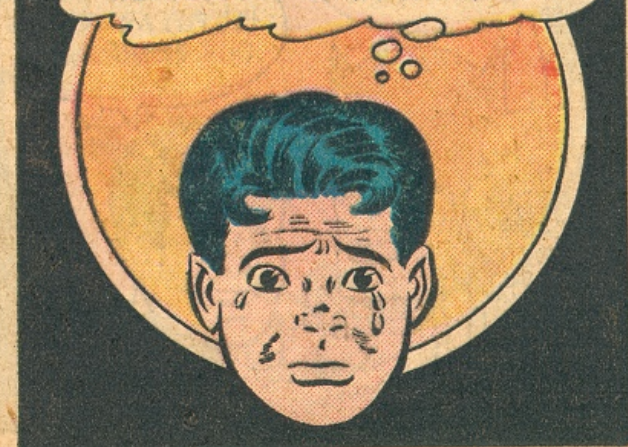


OH, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT! **BATMAN** SAYS NO ONE BUT **HE** SHALL KNOW MY **TRUE** IDENTITY!

I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED ANY MORE!



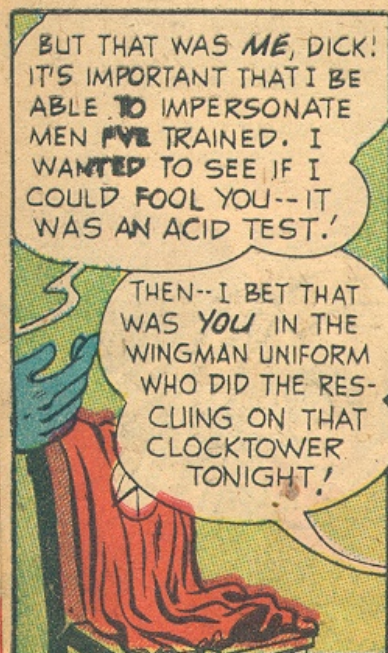
IF **BATMAN'S** STORY WERE TRUE, ABOUT TRAINING A **BATMAN** FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THERE'D BE NO NEED OF REVEALING ALL THE **BATMAN** SECRETS TO HIM! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE **BATMAN** FOR NOT KEEPING FAITH WITH ME...



HEY, KID! WHERE YOU HURRYING TO?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE--NOW?





BATMAN

Featuring
**"BATMAN-
INDIAN
CHIEF!"**





BATMAN



BATMAN

IT'S A NEW ROLE INDEED FOR
BATMAN AND ROBIN WHEN
THEY BECOME STAND-INS FOR...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
CONFUSING, YOU SAY? WELL,
READ ON AND YOU'LL SEE
THAT IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE,
WHEN THE CAPED CRIME-
BUSTER DONS THE ATTIRE
OF MAN-OF-THE-BATS,
GALLANT MASKED LAWMAN
OF THE WEST, AND BEGINS
HIS ROLE AS...

BATMAN-- INDIAN CHIEF!



by
BOB
KANE



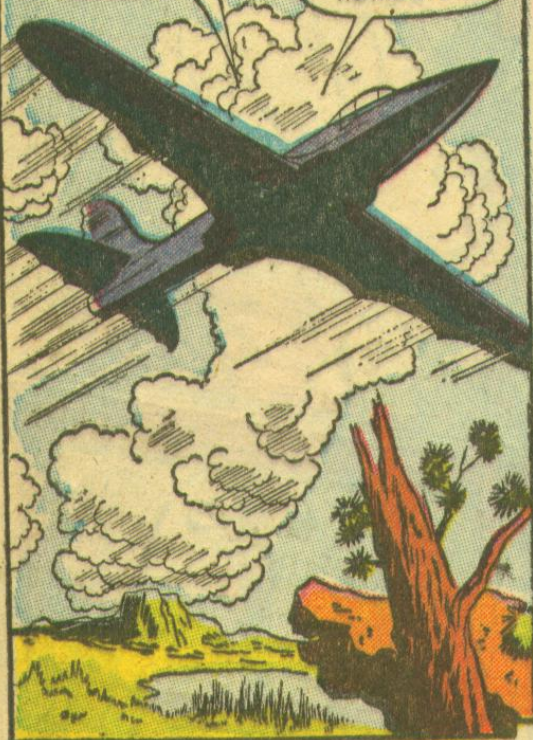
BATMAN



ONE NIGHT, AS THE FAMED **BAT-PLANE** SOARS OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN, FAR FROM **GOTHAM CITY**...

IN ABOUT TEN HOURS, WE'LL BE BACK HOME! I CAN'T SAY I WON'T BE GLAD!

SAME HERE! THESE DISTANT MISSIONS MAKE ME HOMESICK!



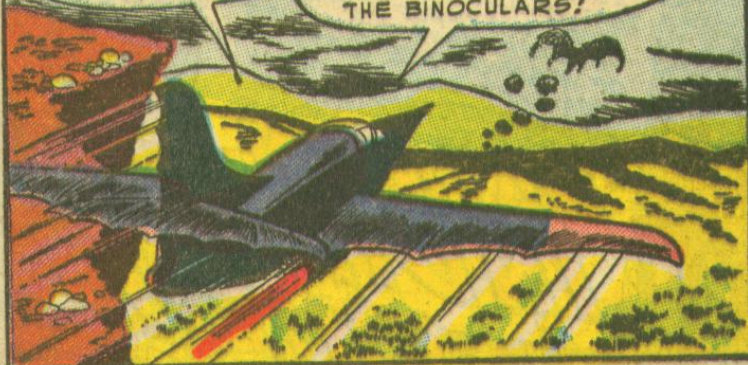
INSIDE ARE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WITH THEIR MASKS FLUNG BACK, REVEALING THE FACES OF **BRUCE WAYNE** AND **DICK GRAYSON**...

GREAT GUNS! AM I SEEING THINGS? LOOK OVER THERE!

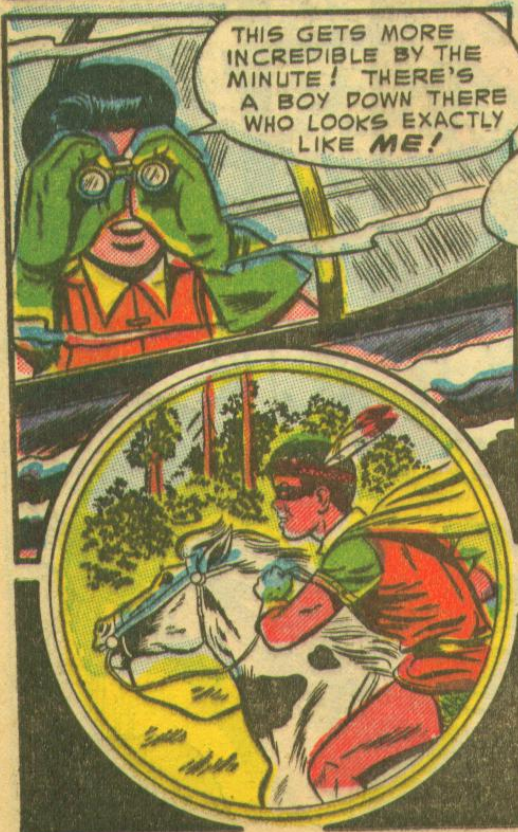


A **BAT-SIGNAL**... IN **SMOKE**! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE, EXCEPT SOMEONE SUMMONING US! BUT **WHO**?... AND **WHY**? TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE BINOCULARS!



THIS GETS MORE INCREDIBLE BY THE MINUTE! THERE'S A BOY DOWN THERE WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE **ME**!



STUNNED BY THESE SURPRISING EVENTS, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS HURRIEDLY LAND THE **BAT-PLANE** IN A SHELTERED CLEARING, AND...

A **BAT-SIGNAL** IN THE FORM OF **SMOKE**-- A BOY WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU, **ROBIN**... THIS CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION! COME ON!



AND DEEP IN THE WOODS, STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE... A CANOE BEARING A **BAT-SYMBOL**, AND A CAVERN NOT UNLIKE THEIR OWN **BAT-CAVE**!

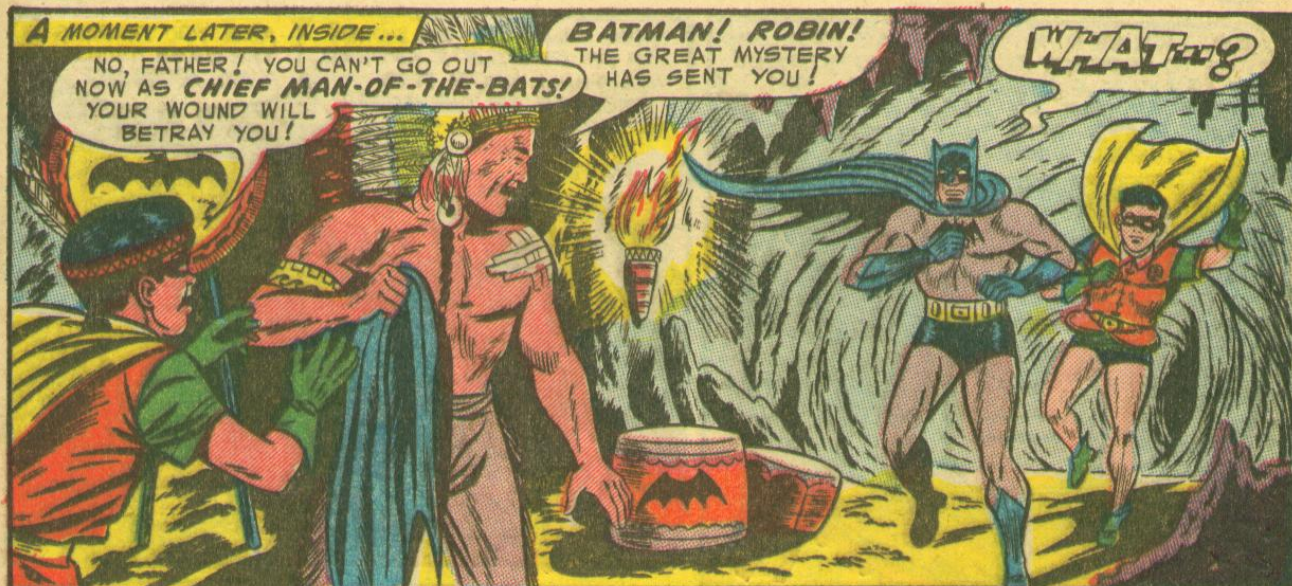
BUT WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?

LISTEN... VOICES INSIDE THE CAVE! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!





BATMAN



CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

GREATEAGLE IS MY REAL NAME, O **BATMAN--** AND THIS IS MY SON, **LITTLE RAVEN!** WE ARE OF THE SIOUX TRIBE! LONG HAVE WE PLAYED THE ROLES OF **BATMAN AND ROBIN!**

WHEN DRESSED AS YOU, I AM KNOWN AS **CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS!** IN OUR WAR AGAINST CRIME, WE OPERATE HERE, FROM OUR OWN VERSION OF A **BAT-CAVE!**

AMAZING! BUT TELL ME-- HOW WERE YOU WOUNDED?

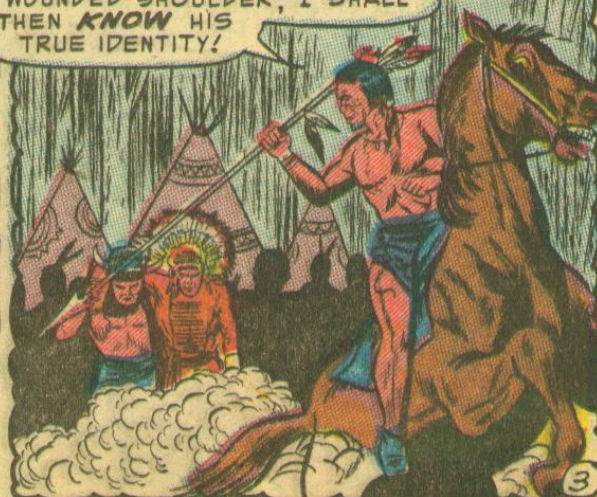
VILLAINOUS **BLACK ELK** AND HIS RAIDERS HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PUT AN END TO THEM! BUT JUST TODAY...



...**BLACK ELK** LED A RAID ON MY VILLAGE, AND BEFORE I COULD SWITCH TO **MAN-OF-THE-BATS**, HIS SPEAR THRUST FOUND MY SHOULDER!

HA, **GREAT EAGLE!** YOU CANNOT STAND BEFORE ME!

LONG HAVE I THOUGHT YOU AND **MAN-OF-THE-BATS** TO BE THE SAME PERSON! WELL, NOW WE SHALL SEE! IF **MAN-OF-THE-BATS** APPEARS WITH A WOUNDED SHOULDER, I SHALL THEN **KNOW** HIS TRUE IDENTITY!





BATMAN



HMM... WE'VE RUN INTO SIMILAR PROBLEMS, TRYING TO PROTECT **OUR** REAL IDENTITIES! BUT **LITTLE RAVEN** IS RIGHT... YOU CAN'T APPEAR AS **MAN-OF-THE-BATS** WITH THAT WOUNDED SHOULDER!



THEN WHAT CAN BE DONE? IF HE **DOESN'T** APPEAR, ALL SHALL KNOW IT IS BECAUSE OF THE SPEAR WOUND... AND ALL SHALL KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!

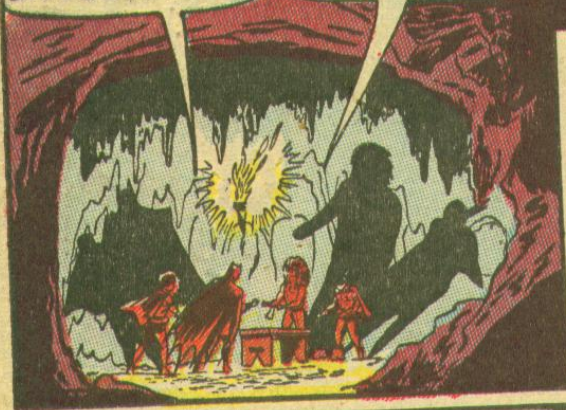
ARE YOU THINKING THE SAME THING I AM, **ROBIN**?

I'D SAY SO!



GREAT EAGLE, SUPPOSING **ROBIN** AND I PLAYED THE ROLES OF **CHIEF MAN-OF-THE-BATS** AND **LITTLE RAVEN**?

THAT WOULD INDEED SAVE THE SITUATION! HERE... WE MUST GET YOU INTO MY COSTUME-- AND ACQUAINT YOU WITH MY UTILITY BELT!



THE BELT CONTAINS DYES--WHICH YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR SKINS!



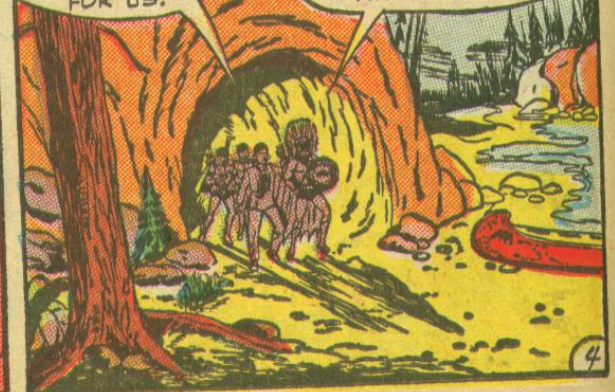
THUS, WITHIN A FEW SHORT MINUTES...

THERE! THE DISGUISE IS COMPLETE! NONE COULD GUESS YOU ARE NOT ME! BUT YOU MUST TAKE ONE PRECAUTION...



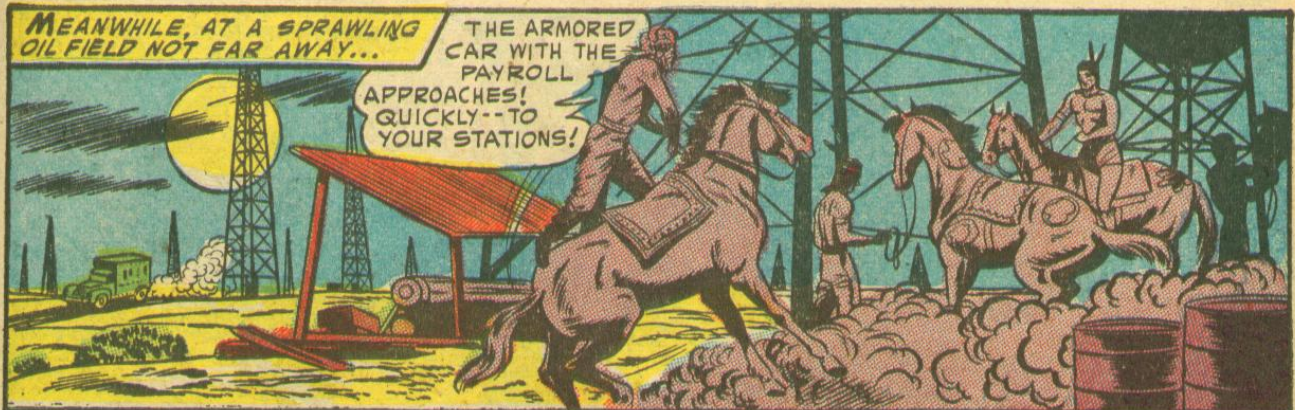
YOU MUST PERFORM **ONLY** IN INDIAN FASHION! IF NOT, PEOPLE WILL GUESS IMMEDIATELY THAT YOU ARE STAND-INS FOR US!

WELL, OUR JOB'S CUT OUT FOR US! LET'S HEAD FOR OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH **BLACK ELK'S RAIDERS**!

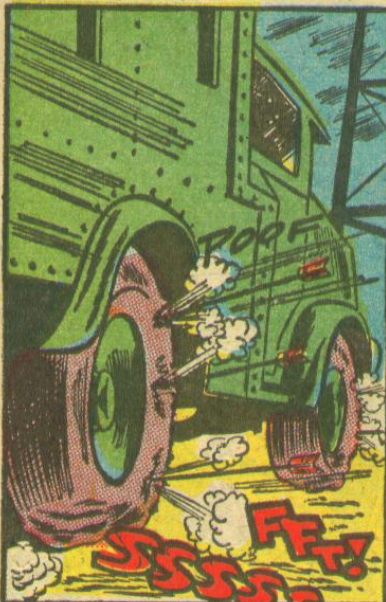




BATMAN

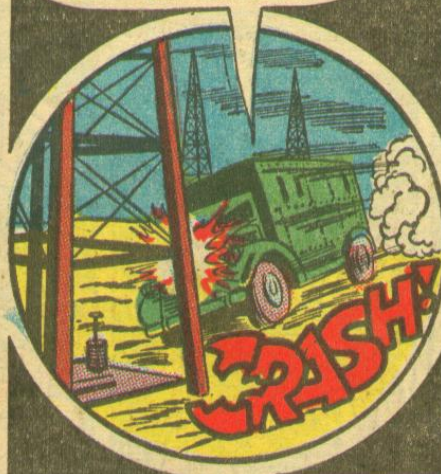


A BOW TWANGS, THEN ANOTHER--AND ANOTHER...



SWERVING, THE CAR SMASHES INTO THE BASE OF THE DERRICK...

THEY'LL NEVER CRACK THROUGH OUR ARMOR! LET 'EM HAVE IT!



BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN OPEN FIRE, FLAMING SHAFTS STREAK THROUGH THE GUN SLOTS...

YOW! ARROWS SATURATED WITH KEROSENE! THEY'RE SETTING THE CAR ON FIRE!



RUSHING OUT FRANTICALLY, THE GUARDS ARE QUICKLY SUBDUED...

NOW--THE PAYROLL! MAKE WASTE--BEFORE THE FLAMES CONSUME IT!

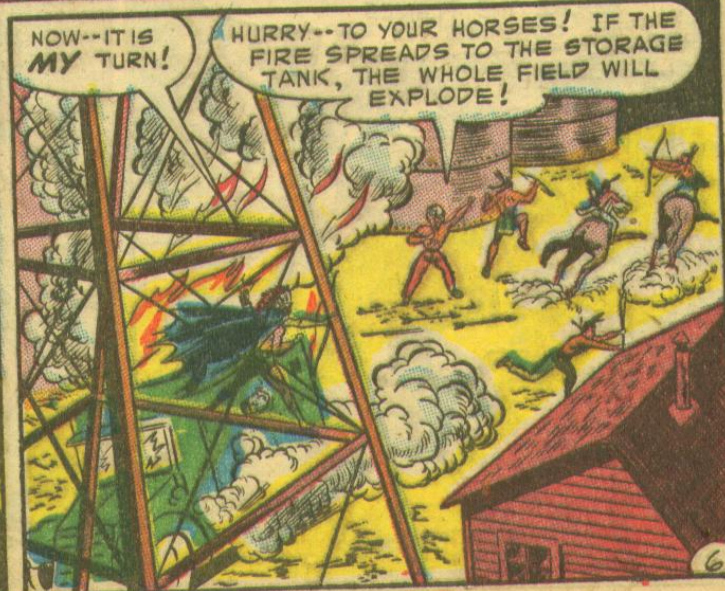
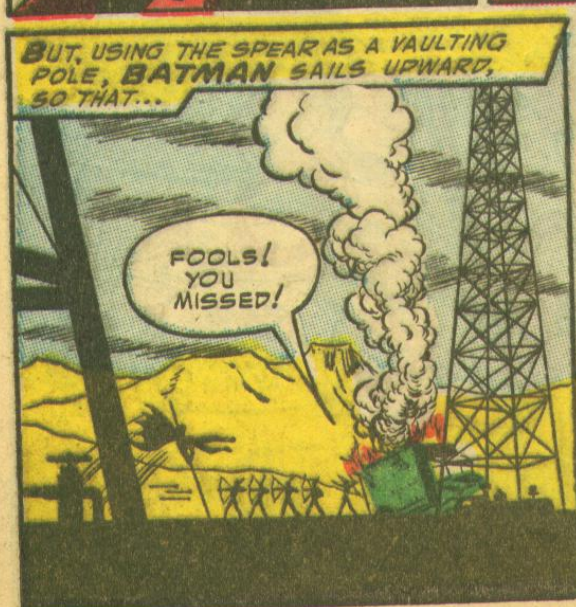


BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, ATTRACTED BY THE BLAZE BELOW, TWO FIGURES SWING FROM ONE OF THE TOWERING DERRICKS...





BATMAN





BATMAN



AND AS THE RAIDERS GALLOP OFF... THEY'RE GETTING AWAY-- BUT PUTTING THAT FIRE OUT IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! IF THE FLAMES EVER REACH THE STORAGE TANKS-- AS **BLACK ELK** SAID-- **EVERYTHING WILL GO UP!**

A TWO-MAN **BUCKET BRIGADE** OUGHT TO TURN THE TRICK!

SHORTLY... WE HAVE OTHER WORK NOW! WE ARE GOING AFTER **BLACK ELK!**

INJUNS-- YOU SAVED THE PAYROLL! THANKS!

LATER, AS THEY SCAN THE NEARBY TERRAIN... NO! WE'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS LIKE **INDIANS**--REMEMBER! HERE'S THEIR TRAIL-- HEADING SOUTH TOWARD THE RIVER!

COME ON... WE'LL GET THE **BATPLANE** AND FOLLOW THEM!

AND AT THE RIVER, WHERE, AT FIRST, THE TRAIL SEEMS LOST FOREVER... SEE BELOW, ON THE RIVER'S BOTTOM? SMALL STONES AND PEBBLES HAVE BEEN OVERTURNED! THAT PATTERN CONTINUES SOUTHWARD!

THE STONES WERE DISTURBED BY HORSES' FEET! EVEN THOUGH THE ACTUAL TRACKS ARE WASHED AWAY-- WE NOW KNOW WHICH DIRECTION **BLACK ELK** TOOK!

THEY'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE RIVER SOMETIME... AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL AGAIN!

BUT SOME MILES FURTHER ON, THE TRACKS EMERGE FROM THE RIVER ONLY TO END ABRUPTLY, AT THE EDGE OF A VAST, STONY FLATNESS... THEY HEADED ACROSS THE LAVA FLATS! HORSES DON'T LEAVE PRINTS IN HARD STONE! WE'RE BEATEN!

NO! NOT YET! AGAIN WE'VE GOT TO PLAY INDIAN! **GREAT EAGLE** WOULD FIND THE TRAIL... SO WILL WE!

INDIAN PONIES--DON'T WEAR HORSESHOES... BUT SEE THESE SMALL SCRAPINGS OF BONY SUBSTANCE? THAT WAS LEFT BY THE **FEET** OF THEIR HORSES!

THEN WE CAN **STILL** FOLLOW THEM! **GREAT EAGLE** SHOULD BE PROUD OF US FOR FIGURING THIS ONE OUT!

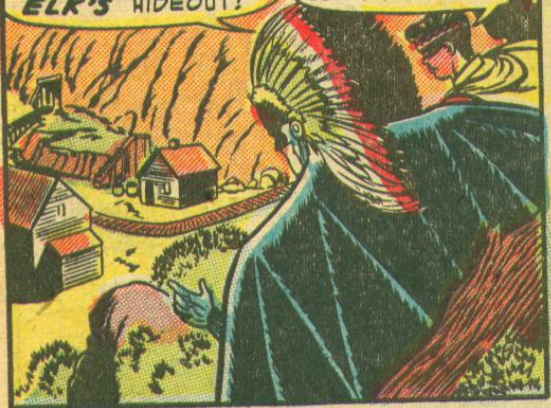


BATMAN



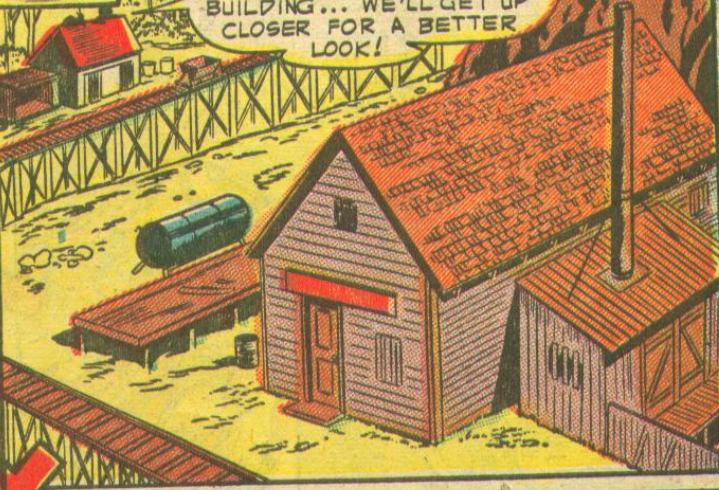
FINALLY, AS DAWN BREAKS...
THEIR TRAIL LEADS HERE--
TO AN OLD MINE! THIS, I THINK, IS **BLACK ELK'S** HIDEOUT!

LET'S GET UP ON ONE OF THE ROOFS AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND!



SOON...

OVER THERE IS THE MAIN BUILDING... WE'LL GET UP CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK!



BUT JUST THEN...

OH, OH-- THOSE SHADOWS... WE'VE GOT COMPANY! ACT LIKE WE DON'T SEE THEM... BUT GET READY TO DIVE FOR THAT MONORAIL CAR!

RIGHT... SAY WHEN!



NOW!

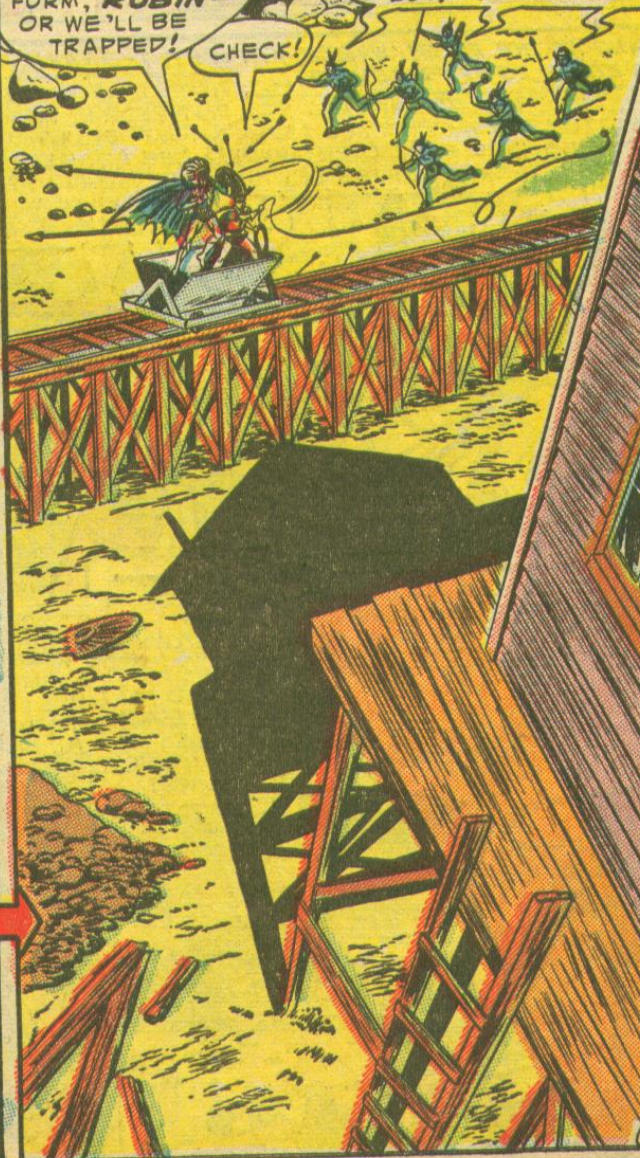
WE SET THE CAR IN MOTION... IT'S CARRYING US TOWARD THE UNLOADING PLATFORM! LOW BRIDGE, **ROBIN!**



WE'RE STOPPING! LASSO THE PLATFORM, **ROBIN**-- OR WE'LL BE TRAPPED!

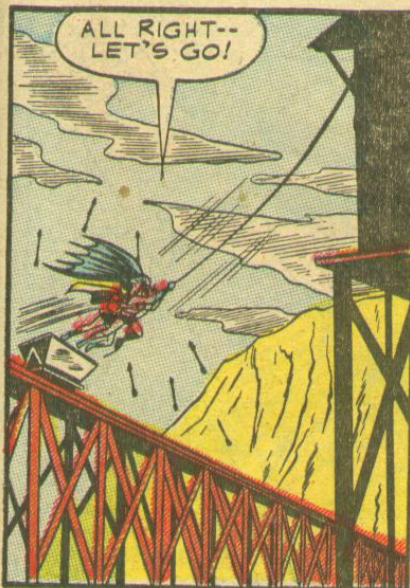
CHECK!

AI-EEE! MAN-OF-THE-BATS AND THE BOY! DOWN THEM!





BATMAN



ALL RIGHT--
LET'S GO!



WE'RE SAFE FOR
NOW--BUT THEY
HAVE THE PLACE
SURROUNDED!
CAPTURE MEANS
THE STRIPPING OFF
OF OUR MASKS!

I KNOW! BUT
THEY THINK
WE'RE REALLY
GREAT EAGLE
AND **LITTLE**
RAVEN...
AND WE HAVE
ONE TRICK LEFT!

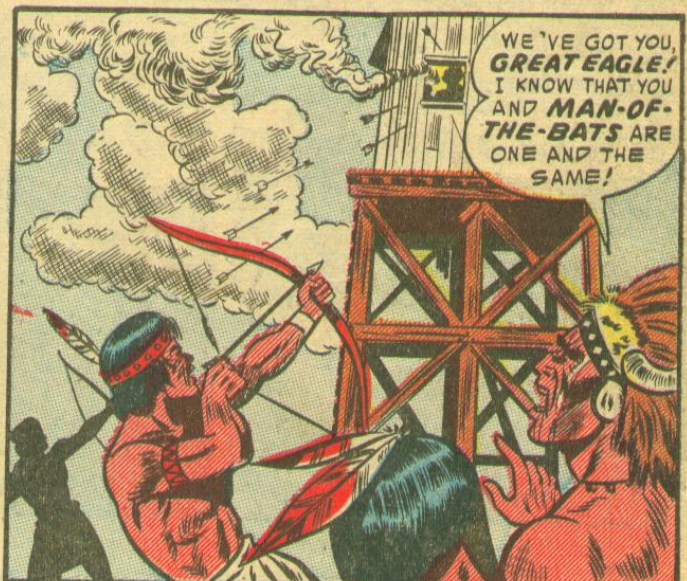
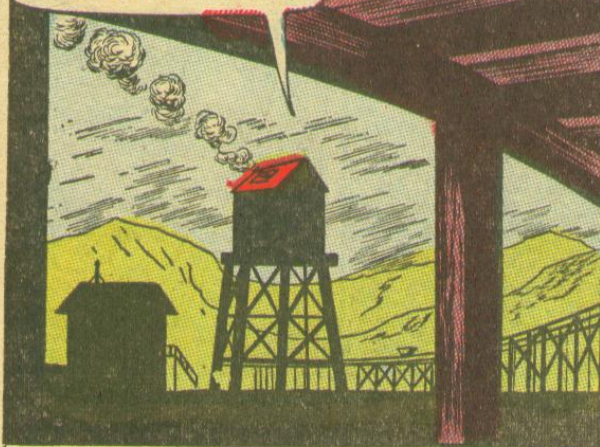


SWIFTLY, **BATMAN** REMOVES SOME
TINY MISSILES FROM THE UTILITY
BELT, AND...

SMOKE PELLETS!
THAT'S OUR OUT!

AS THE PELLETS STRIKE THE FLOOR AND BURST,
THICK CLOUDS BILLOW SKYWARD...

NOW, SOMEHOW, WE'VE GOT TO STALL
THE RAIDERS! GET YOUR BOW
AND ARROWS READY!

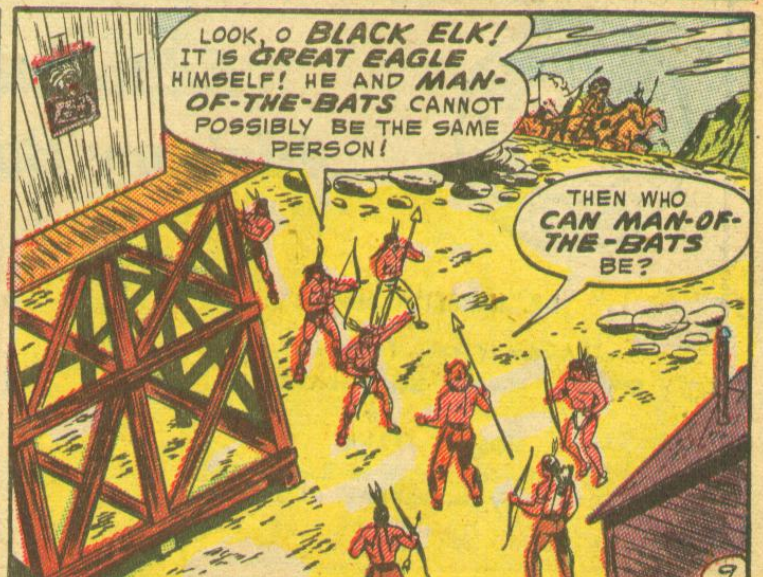


WE'VE GOT YOU,
GREAT EAGLE!
I KNOW THAT YOU
AND **MAN-OF-**
THE-BATS ARE
ONE AND THE
SAME!



ONLY ONE ARROW LEFT! AFTER
THAT, IT'S CURTAINS! WE'VE
PROTECTED **GREAT EAGLE'S**
IDENTITY--BUT NOW WE'RE
IN DANGER OF REVEALING
OUR OWN!

LISTEN!
THEY'RE
SHOUTING
ABOUT
SOME-
THING!



LOOK, O **BLACK ELK!**
IT IS **GREAT EAGLE**
HIMSELF! HE AND **MAN-**
OF-THE-BATS CANNOT
POSSIBLY BE THE SAME
PERSON!

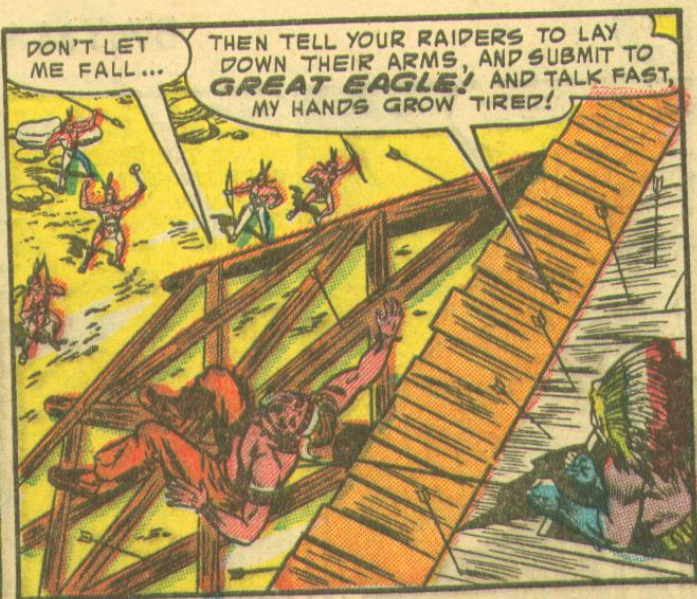
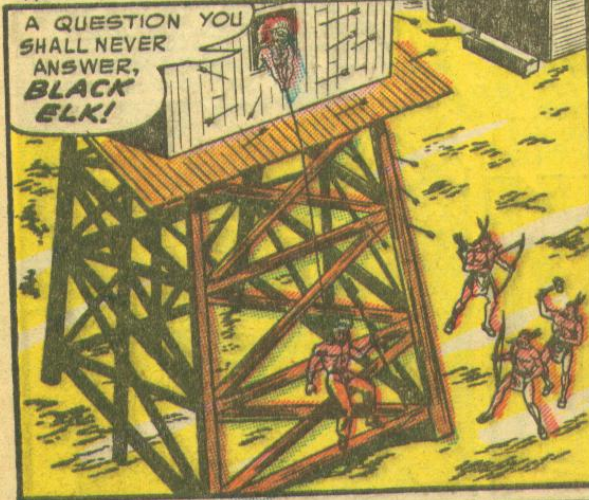
THEN WHO
CAN MAN-OF-
THE-BATS
BE?



BATMAN



BUT BEFORE THE INDIAN OUTLAW CAN SAY MORE, A VINE ROPE SETTLES ABOUT HIM, AND LIFTS HIM FROM THE GROUND...



AND SO, PRESENTLY... MANY JAILS ARE ANXIOUS TO ACCOMMODATE **BLACK ELK!** THANKS TO YOU, **MAN-OF-THE-BATS!** HE AND HIS RAIDERS SOON WILL BE BEHIND BARS!



MUCH LATER, BACK AT **GREAT EAGLE'S CAVE...**

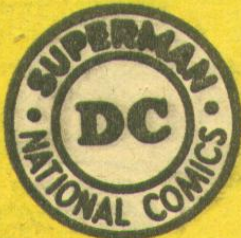
YOUR REAL IDENTITY REMAINS A SECRET... BUT NOW WE MUST LEAVE! THE **BAT-PLANE** IS NEARBY, AND WE HAVE MANY MILES TO COVER TONIGHT!

HAD I NOT SEEN YOUR SMOKE SIGNALS, **BLACK ELK** MAY HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR IDENTITY! BUT THAT, TOO, REMAINS A SECRET! FAREWELL, **BATMAN!**



AND AS THE **BAT-PLANE** TAKES OFF FOR **GOTHAM CITY...**

WHO KNOW?... MAYBE ONE DAY, MY SON, WE CAN GO TO THE GREAT CITY AND DO THEM A FAVOR! WE SHALL SEE!



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JAN. NO. 215

10¢

Detective COMICS

BATMAN

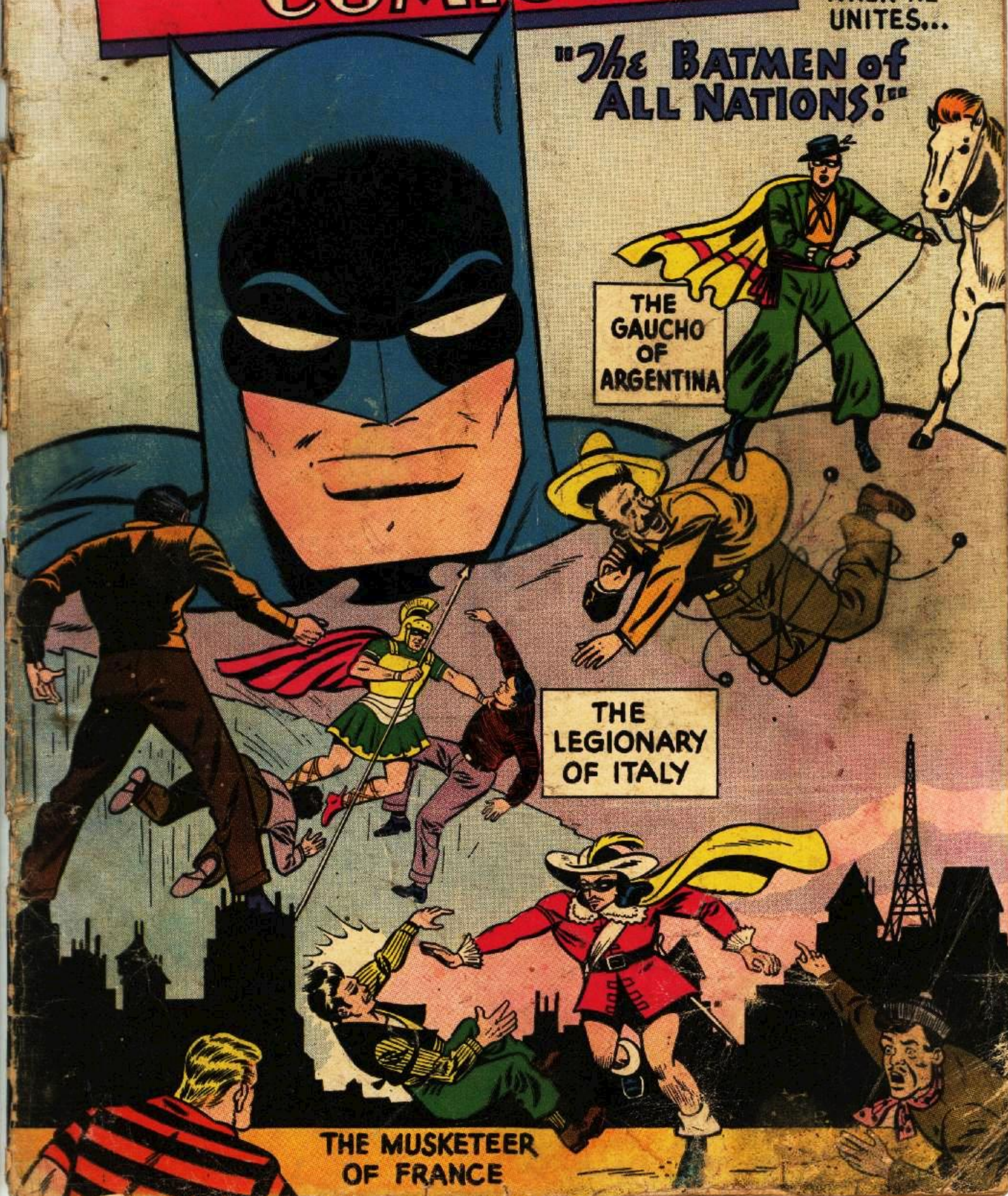
FACES THE
GREATEST
CHALLENGE
OF HIS CAREER
WHEN HE
UNITES...

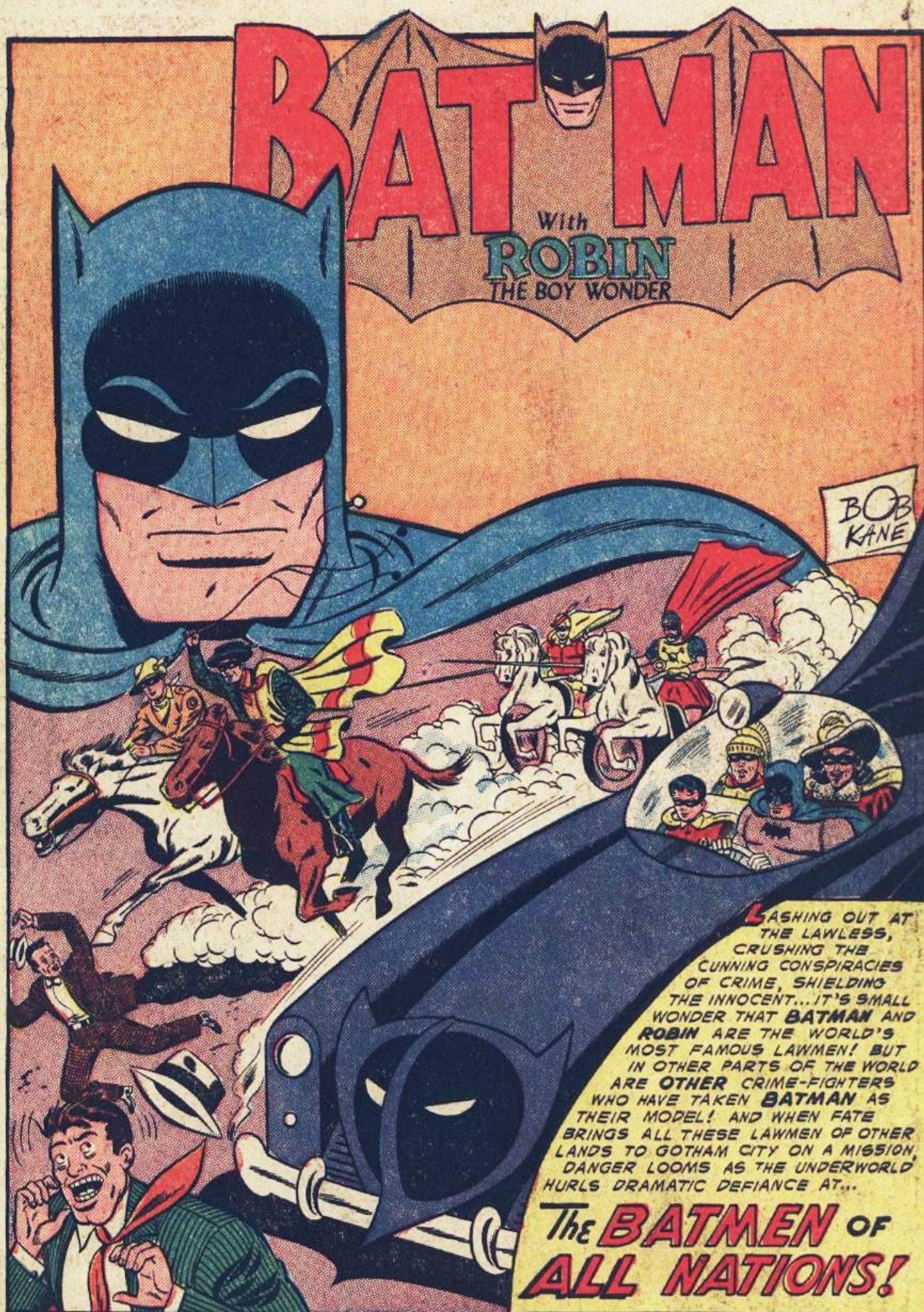
**"The BATMEN of
ALL NATIONS!"**

THE
GAUCHO
OF
ARGENTINA

THE
LEGIONARY
OF ITALY

THE MUSKETEER
OF FRANCE





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BATMAN! IT'S A MAGIC NAME, INSPIRING MEN IN MANY LANDS--LIKE THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND...

LISTEN--THE RECTORY BELL...THE SIGNAL THAT CRIME HAS STRUCK! QUICK-- WE MUST BECOME **THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE** TO STOP IT!

JUST AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, OUR MODELS, ANSWER THEIR **BAT-SIGNAL!**



MINUTES LATER, AS ENGLISH ROBBERS ATTEMPT A GETAWAY...

THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, ON THEIR MOTOR-CYCLE "HORSES"! WE'RE CAUGHT COLD-- WE SURRENDER!

WE GOT THEM--BUT **BATMAN** WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THEM FASTER! HOW I'D LIKE TO SEE HIS METHODS IN ACTION, IN AMERICA!



NOR ARE THESE ENGLISH "BATMEN" THE ONLY ONES WHO WISH THAT! IN FRANCE, IT'S THAT SECRET-IDENTITY LAWMAN KNOWN ONLY AS--THE MUSKETEER...

IT'S THAT CURSED **MUSKETEER**, WHO IMITATES THE AMERICAN **BATMAN!**

"IMITATES" IS CORRECT! BUT SOMEDAY I SHALL LEARN HOW THE REAL **BATMAN** OPERATES!

AND IN ROME, THAT DREADED FOE OF CRIME WHO WEARS A COSTUME OF THE ANCIENT PAST AS...

THE LEGIONARY! HE'S VAULTING ON MY LANCE HELPS-- BUT I COME AGAIN FROM NOWHERE! I WISH I KNEW HOW **BATMAN AND ROBIN** DO IT!



EVEN IN DISTANT SOUTH AMERICA, THE GREAT BATMAN HAS FOUND A FOLLOWER...

THE GAUCHO AND HIS **BOLO!** HE'S AN EXPERT WITH IT! BUT **BATMAN**, THEY SAY, IS EVEN MORE EXPERT WITH HIS **BAT-BOLO!** SOME DAY I SHALL SEE HIM!

IN FARAWAY AUSTRALIA, FINALLY, A "BATMAN" CALLED THE RANGER COMES UP WITH A PLAN...

THAT'S THE LAST OF THE **DIGGER MOB** YOU'VE ROUNDED UP, **RANGER!**

BUT **BATMAN'S** METHODS WOULD HAVE MADE THE JOB EASIER! I'M GOING TO WRITE AND ASK HIM IF HE'LL BRIEF US OTHER **LAWMEN** IN HIS **CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS!**

ALWAYS READY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER **LAWMEN**, THE ORIGINAL **BATMAN** ANSWERS PROMPTLY...

BATMAN INVITED ALL THESE OTHER **LAWMEN** TO COME HERE TO **GOTHAM CITY** AND LEARN HIS METHODS!

WOW! WITH THAT BUNCH OF **WORLD LAWMEN** HERE, **CRIME** WILL BE SCARED OUT!



YET NO ONE DREAMS THAT THIS GATHERING OF "BATMEN" WILL CAUSE UNPRECEDENTED CRIME...

... FOR IT HAS GIVEN "KNOTS" CARDINE, UNDER-WORLD CHIEFTAIN, AN IDEA FOR THE GREATEST SCHEME OF HIS CAREER!

THERE GOES THE LAST "BATMAN" TO ARRIVE! AFTER HIS CAR--QUICK... FORCE IT OFF THE ROAD!

DON'T WORRY, BOSS... WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!



AND LATER, EVEN AS GOTHAM CITY PREPARES TO GREET THE "BATMEN" OF THE WORLD...

NOW THAT OUR PREPARATIONS ARE MADE, WE'LL PUT OUR PLAN INTO OPERATION!

HA, HA-- INVITING THOSE OTHER LAWMEN HERE IS GOING TO BE THE END OF BATMAN!



PRESENTLY, AS GOTHAM CITY GIVES THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS A TRADITIONAL WELCOME...

VOILA! THERE HE IS-- THE GREAT ORIGINAL BATMAN... OUR MODEL!

WELCOME TO GOTHAM CITY, ALL OF YOU!



AND THAT EVENING, THE FOREIGN LAWMEN GET THEIR FIRST LESSON IN CRIME-BUSTING FROM THE GREATEST CRIME-BUSTER OF THEM ALL...

WE HAVE OUR SECRET IDENTITIES JUST AS YOU DO, BUT THIS BAT-SIGNAL CALLS US FROM WHEREVER WE ARE!

OUR UTILITY BELTS CONTAIN OUR BELT-RADIOS, GAS PELLETS, SMALL TOOLS, MINIATURE CAMERA, AND MANY OTHER DEVICES--AS WELL AS OUR SILK ROPES!

AH... NOW WE SHALL SEE SOME OF THE WORLD-FAMED ACROBATICS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



ON THE ROOF, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

OUR ACROBATIC SKILL IS DESIGNED TO HIT CROOKS SWIFTLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY.. BUT ONE MUST PRACTICE CONSTANTLY!

WAIT... LOOK, M'SIEU BATMAN! YOUR SIGNAL IS CALLING YOU NOW!



SHORTLY, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

BATMAN, I CALLED YOU DOWN FROM THE ROOF TO HEAR THIS

AT THE VERY TIME WHEN THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS ARE HERE TO LEARN OUR BATMAN'S METHODS, A DEFIANT CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED!

"KNOTS" CARDINE, MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN GOTHAM CITY, HAS ISSUED A PUBLIC BOAST THAT HE WILL COMMIT UNPRECEDENTED CRIMES UNDER THE VERY NOSES OF THESE GREAT LAWMEN!

HMM... CARDINE IS A SHREWD CROOK! HE MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR MAKING THIS PUBLIC BOAST!

JUST THEN...

COMMISSIONER! AN INTERRUPTED PHONE CALL FROM THE GOTHAM BELL COMPANY! SOUNDED LIKE THE WATCHMAN CALLING FOR HELP!

WHAT...? COME ON... WE'LL GET THERE RIGHT AWAY!



OUT INTO THE NIGHT RACE THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME-FIGHTERS!



PARBLEU! A MAGNIFIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON AN ACTUAL CASE WITH BATMAN!

BUT INSIDE THE GREAT BELL FACTORY, IT'S THE "BATMEN" WHO GET THE SURPRISE...

COMPLIMENTS OF "KNOTS" CARDINE!

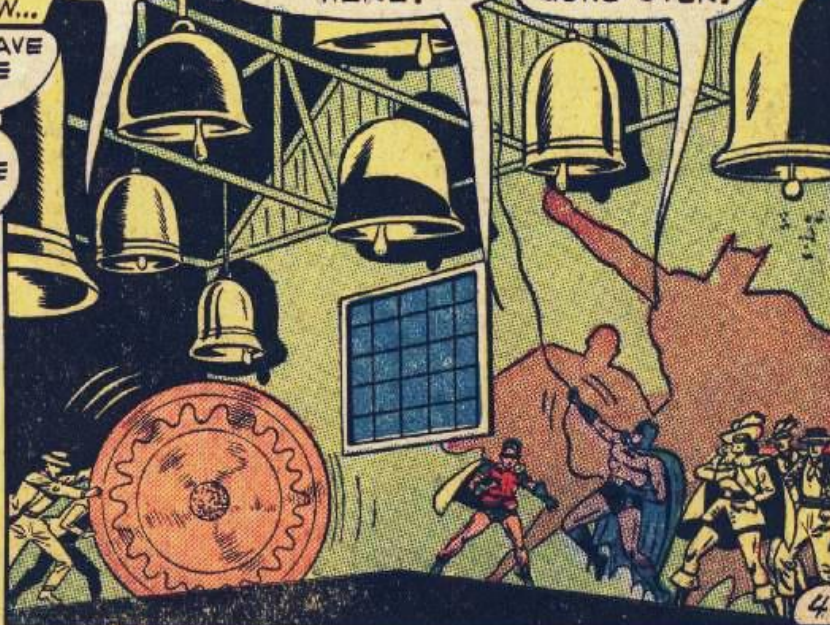
AN AMBUSH! THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING THROUGH HERE!

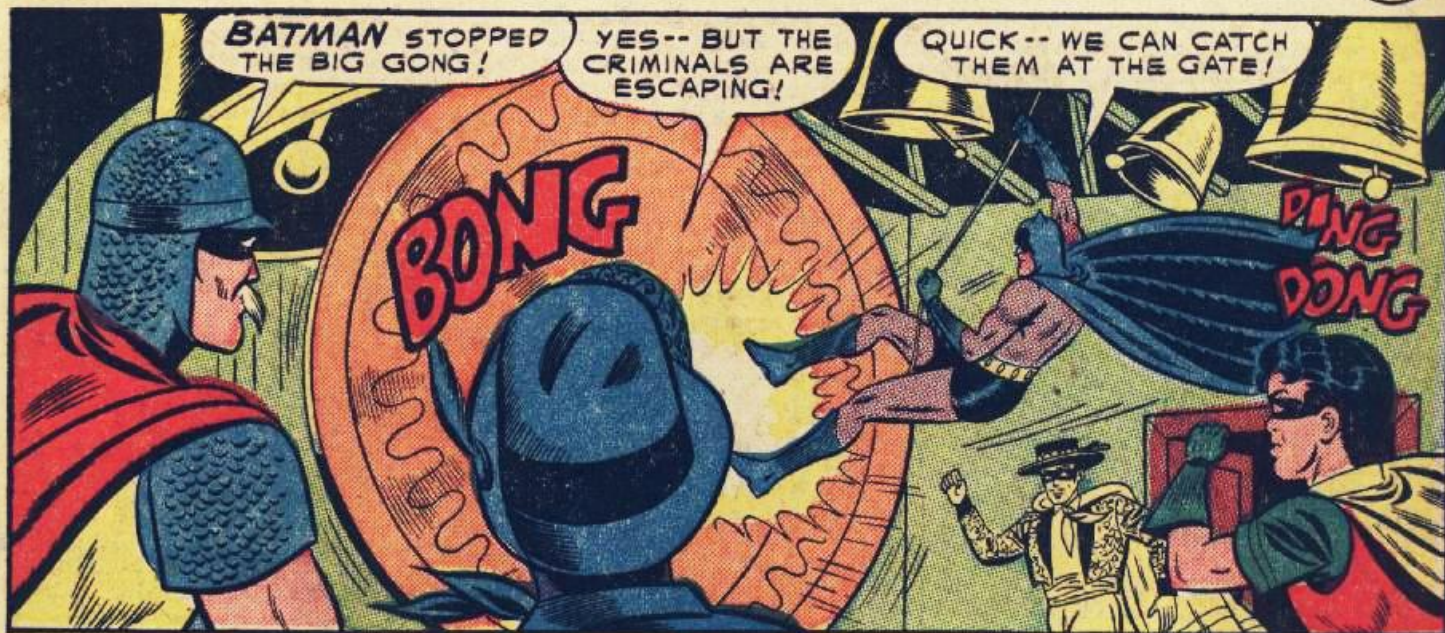
LOOK OUT! I'LL TRY TO KICK THE GONG OVER!

AND UPON REACHING THEIR DESTINATION...

PERHAPS, SIGNOR BATMAN, SOME OF US SHOULD GUARD THE GATES!

GOOD IDEA...I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU AND THE KNIGHT! THE REST OF US WILL GO THROUGH THE FACTORY, TO THE OFFICE WHERE THE SAFE IS! THAT WAY, WE CAN TAKE THE ROBBERS BY SURPRISE!





BUT AT THE GATE, STILL ANOTHER SET-BACK...



FAN OUT ON THESE STREETS! WE MUST CUT THEM OFF, BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS WHERE CARDINE'S HIDEOUT IS!

AND BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF PEDESTRIANS, THE STRANGE LAWYER ROAR INTO ACTION...



THE RANGER AND THE GAUCHO ARE COVERING GOTHAM BOULEVARD!

WE'VE CHECKED ALL THE STREETS EXCEPT AN ALLEY THEY COULDN'T MAKE SPEED IN-- SO THEY MUST BE STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US!

BUT AS THOUGH OVER-HEARING BATMAN'S WORDS, THE CROOKS TAKE THAT ONE LOOP-HOLE OF ESCAPE...

BATMAN ISN'T COVERING THIS ALLEY, SO WE CAN DOUBLE BACK ALONG IT AND PULL THE NEXT JOB!



AND THE JUBILANT CROOK IS NOT FAR FROM WRONG...

NO CAR LIKE THAT WENT THROUGH THIS TOLL-GATE!

THEY DIDN'T TAKE OUR STREET, EITHER!

NOR OURS! THEY SLIPPED BACK PAST YOU, BATMAN!





DETECTIVE COMICS



THUS, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS, THE LAWMEN
FACE A BAFFLING PROBLEM...

THEN "KNOTS" CARDINE
GOT CLEAR AWAY--
AND WE HAVE NO IDEA
WHERE HIS HIDEOUT
IS!

IT'S AS THOUGH THEY
KNEW JUST WHAT WE
WERE GOING TO DO!

THESE
AMERICAN
CROOKS--
THEY SEEM
TO BE TOO
MUCH EVEN
FOR **BATMAN**!

WE MUST GET CARDINE FAST!
TOMORROW, GOTHAM BANK IS
TRANSFERRING MILLIONS IN
CURRENCY TO ITS NEW
BRANCH! EVEN THOUGH
YOU ARRANGED TO GUARD
IT, **BATMAN**, CARDINE MAY
ATTEMPT TO ROB IT!



I HAVE ONE CLUE!
THE CRIMINAL'S CAR
WAS SCRATCHED ON
THE SIDE, AS THOUGH
BY BUSHES-- SO
THEIR HIDEOUT MUST
BE IN A THICKLY-
WOODED COUNTRY
REGION!

GOLLY... **BATMAN** ISN'T
SHOWING UP VERY
WELL BEFORE THESE
FOREIGN LAWMEN!
IT'S NOT LIKE
HIM!

THAT
SHOULD
HELP,
LEGIONARY!

YOU CAN ISSUE A GENERAL ALARM
FOR A CAR OF THAT DESCRIPTION,
WITH A SCRATCHED SIDE! WE'LL
PATROL THE CITY ALSO, IN
SEARCH OF IT! IT'S OUR
ONLY CLUE!



AND AS THE CITY-WIDE SEARCH BEGINS...

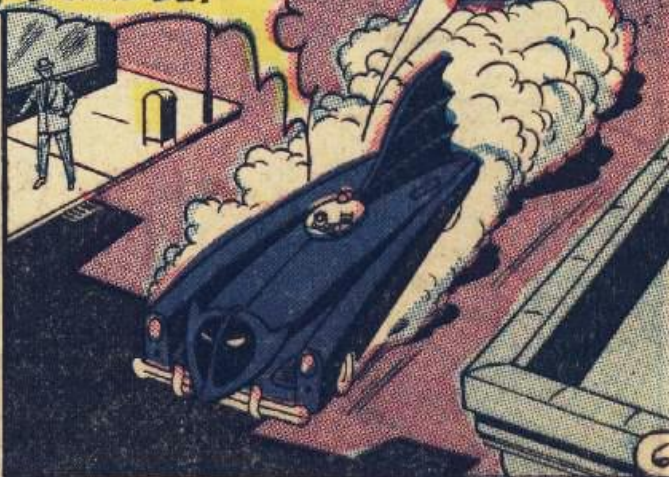
THE ONLY CLUE WE
SPOTTED WAS BY
THE LEGIONARY!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT
THE GREAT **BATMAN**
IS NOT SO CLEVER AS
WE THOUGHT?

DON'T JUMP TO CON-
CLUSIONS! REMEMBER
HIS BRILLIANT RECORD--
THOUGH MAYBE THIS
CARDINE IS A
SMARTER CROOK
THAN ANY HE EVER
FACED!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE
CITY...

FLASH BULLETIN!
SIGNAL 22 AT
WORLD CIRCUS!
SIGNAL 22!

SIGNAL 22... THAT'S
ROBBERY! WE'RE NOT
FAR FROM THE CIRCUS!
HANG ON!



WHILE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

THOSE CROOKS... THEY HOOKED ONTO THE CASHIER'S MONEY WAGON AND ARE TOWING IT AWAY!

AND ONCE AGAIN, AS THOUGH ENDOWED WITH UNCANNY FORESIGHT, ESCAPING CRIMINALS AVOID THE BATMOBILE AS IT RACES TO THE RESCUE...

BATMAN'S COMING AROUND THE NEXT BLOCK! DODGE IN HERE, QUICK!

SOON...

YES, THE CAR THAT TOWED THE CASHIER'S WAGON AWAY HAD SCRATCHED SIDES!

THEN IT WAS ANOTHER OF CARDINE'S JOBS! BUT HE'S A BIG OPERATOR... IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BOTHER WITH THE FEW THOUSANDS IN AN OFFICE SAFE OR A CIRCUS WAGON!

AND AS THE LAWMEN TAKE UP THE TRAIL...

SURE I SAW A CIRCUS WAGON... IT WENT UP INTO THOSE HILLS!

IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND THOSE DOUBLE TRACKS ON THE DIRT ROADS! SPREAD OUT, EVERYBODY!

AGAIN, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT BATMAN BUT THE LEGIONARY WHO SPOTS A CLUE TO THE TRAIL...

SEE? THOSE BUSHES ARE THE SAME HEIGHT AS THE SCRATCHES I SAW ON THE CROOKS' CAR! IT MUST BE THE ROAD THEY USUALLY TAKE!

LOOKS LIKE IT! MUSKETEER, YOU GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS TO FOLLOW US UP THIS WAY!

BUT AS THE SEARCH BEGINS...

HMM... NO SUCH TRACKS ON THIS ROAD! ER--IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BATMAN IS RATHER FOBBLING THIS CASE, WHAT?

I'M A BIT DASHED BY HIS FAILURE TO STOP THIS CARDINE, YES-- BUT HE'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING CLEVER SOON, OLD CHAP... I'M SURE OF IT!



WITHIN A FEW MINUTES...

LOOK! THE DOUBLE TRACKS OF THE CROOKS' CAR AND THE MONEY-WAGON GO UP TO THAT OLD HOUSE!

IT MUST BE THEIR SECRET HIDEOUT! COME ON!

BUT SHOULDN'T ONE OF US STAY HERE, IN CASE ANY OF THEM TRY TO ESCAPE THIS WAY?

THE LEGIONARY IS RIGHT! YOU STAY HERE WITH HIM, ROBIN!



BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT...



SILENTLY, BATMAN APPROACHES A HOUSE OF SINISTER PERIL...

THAT OLD PORCH LAMP... THE LENS IN ITS SIDE SHOWS IT'S A DISGUISED ELECTRIC-EYE BEAM! CARDINE CERTAINLY USES MODERN DEVICES! I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!

WHY-- THE WHOLE HOUSE EXPLODED TO BITS!

BATMAN! BATMAN!

ONLY PULVERIZED, SMOKING DEBRIS GREETED THE HORRIFIED ROBIN, WHEN HE RACES UP THE HILL...

WHY, THE PLACE MUST HAVE BEEN A GIANT BOOBY-TRAP, SET OFF BY BATMAN WHEN HE ENTERED!

A DEATH-TRAP THAT "KNOTS" CARDINE SET FOR HIM! HE DEFIED BATMAN PUBLICLY BECAUSE HE WANTED HIM TO FIND THIS FAKE HIDEOUT-- AND BE DESTROYED!

THUS, A HEADLINE NO ONE EVER DREAMED OF READING SOON FLARES ACROSS GOTHAM CITY...

IT'S INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE! BATMAN FINALLY HAS MET HIS DOOM!



AND NOWHERE IS GRIEF GREATER THAN AMONG THE LAWMEN WHO TOOK **BATMAN** AS THEIR MODEL...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! **BATMAN** COULDN'T DIE LIKE THAT!

HE WAS A GREAT MAN-- BUT ONLY HUMAN! IT IS UP TO US, THE "**BATMEN**" OF OTHER LANDS, TO GET HIS KILLER!

I BELIEVE "**KNOTS**" CARDINE SET THIS DEATH-TRAP TO REMOVE **BATMAN** SO HE COULD STRIKE AT THAT BANK-CURRENCY TRANSFERAL **BATMAN** WAS TO GUARD!

YOU'RE RIGHT, **LEGIONARY**! CARDINE KNEW HE COULDN'T ROB THAT WITH **BATMAN** GUARDING IT!



THEN **WE** WILL GUARD IT! AND IF CARDINE TRIES TO STRIKE, WE WILL GET OUR VENGEANCE ON **BATMAN'S** SLAYER!

FINE! **LEGIONARY**, YOU SEEM THE LOGICAL ONE TO LEAD YOUR FELLOW "**BATMEN**" IN GUARDING THAT SHIP-MENT!

OUI!

SO WHEN MILLIONS IN CASH BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO A NEW BRANCH BANK, THEY HAVE A GRIM GUARD...

STAY WELL BACK, **ROBIN**, TO BLOCK ANY CROOKS WHO TRY TO COME UP BEHIND US!

THE SQUIRE AND I WILL RIDE AHEAD, AND **THE GAUCHO** AND **THE RANGER** CAN ACT AS FLANKING SCOUTS!



AWHILE LATER, AS THE CAVALCADE WINDS OUT TOWARD A NEARBY SUBURBAN TOWN...

NO, WE WON'T! TURN OFF THIS NEXT SIDE-ROAD FAST, OR I'LL SHOOT!

LEGIONARY, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?

FAR FROM CRAZY, **THE LEGIONARY** KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING...

GET THE BIG BAGS OF CURRENCY OUT, FAST!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU-- A CRIMINAL!





AND AS WHIRLWIND CRIME-FIGHTERS, FROM ALL LANDS, POUNCE ON THE STUNNED CROOKS...

PRESENTLY, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER THE REAL LEGIONARY HAS BEEN RELEASED...



"BECAUSE I WAS SUSPICIOUS, INSTEAD OF GOING INTO THAT FAKE HIDEOUT, I TOOK A PRECAUTION..."



I FIGURED THEN THAT THE LEGIONARY WANTED ME DEAD OUT OF THE WAY SO HE COULD GET THAT BANK SHIPMENT! SO I HID IN THE BUSHES AND LET HIM THINK ME DEAD, BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET HIS WHOLE MOB, TOO, WHEN HE TRIED FOR THAT SHIPMENT!



PARBLEU-- TO THINK THAT FOR A MOMENT I DOUBTED YOUR ABILITY, BATMAN! I APOLOGIZE!





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In this issue: DETAILS and ENTRY BLANK for
Giant 5000 PRIZE CONTEST!

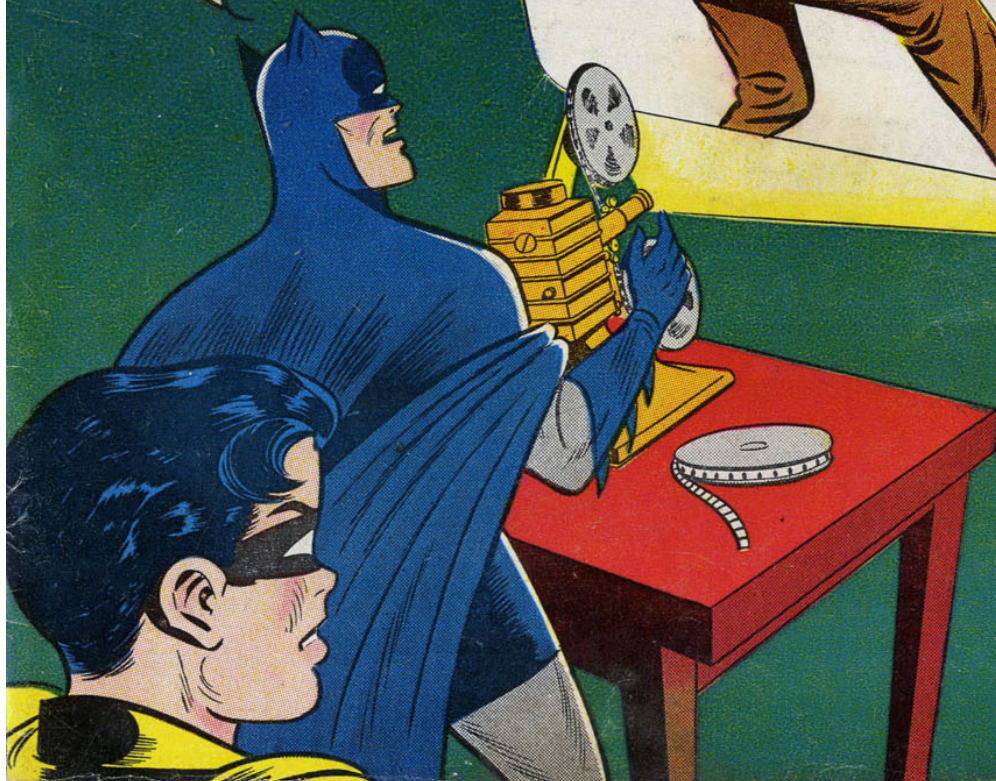
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Detective COMICS

YES, ROBIN--
THE MAN
WEARING THAT
OLD-FASHIONED
BATMAN COSTUME
WAS MY FATHER!



FEATURING:
"THE
First
BATMAN!"

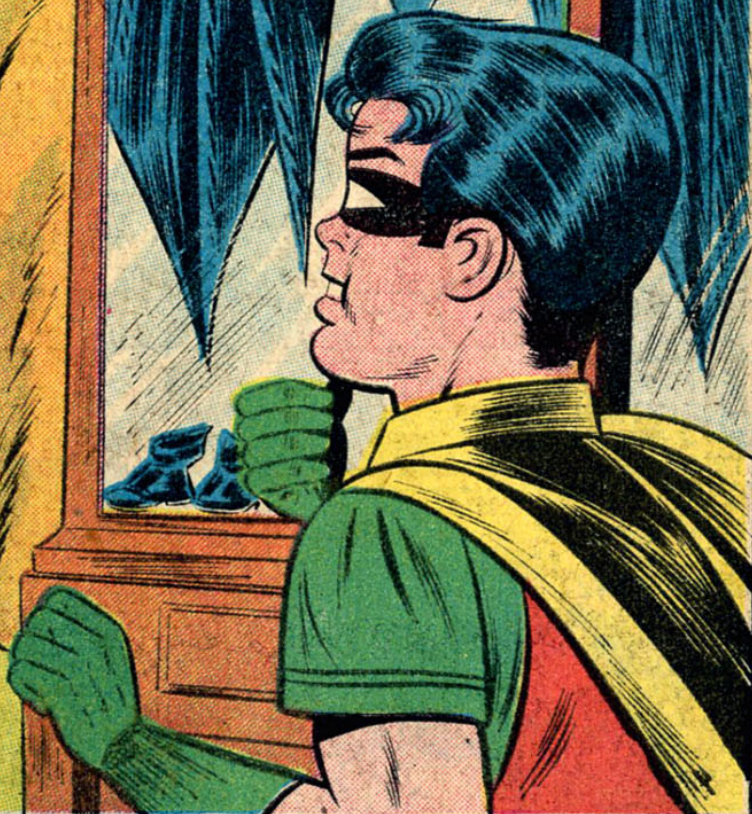
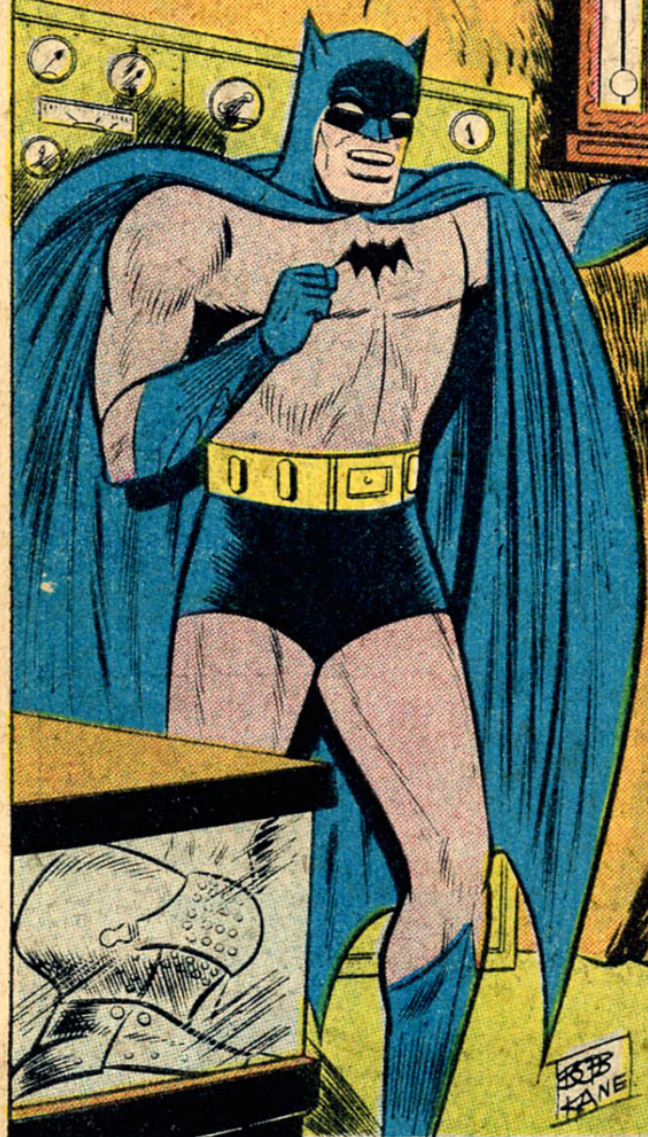
BATMAN

AND
ROBIN

IN AN HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S FAMED **TROPHY ROOM** HANGS A STRANGE YET ODDLY FAMILIAR GARB--THE COSTUME OF **ANOTHER BATMAN!** IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY?-- BRUCE WAYNE IS THE ONE AND ONLY... THE ORIGINAL **BATMAN!** WELL... HE **IS**-- AND HE **ISN'T!** READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE ASTONISHING ANSWER TO THIS PARADOX--READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN THE INSIDE STORY OF...

THE **FIRST BATMAN**

THERE IT IS, **ROBIN**-- THE COSTUME OF A **BATMAN** WHO FOUGHT CRIME EVEN BEFORE I STARTED MY OWN CAREER AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!



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ONE DAY, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, CLEAN OUT THEIR ATTIC...

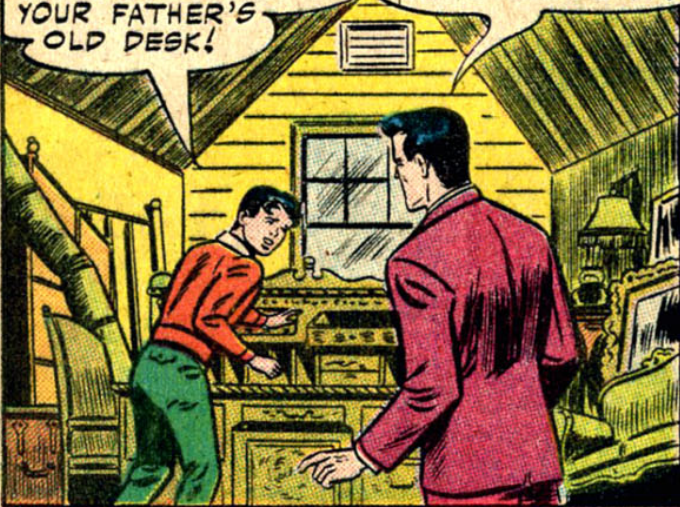
TO HIS SURPRISE, BRUCE WITHDRAWS A FANTASTIC GARMENT...

BRUCE! 'LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING IN YOUR FATHER'S OLD DESK!

A SECRET DRAWER! AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT!

IT'S... A KIND OF **BATMAN COSTUME!**

DICK, I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS COSTUME BEFORE-- ON MY **FATHER**--LONG, LONG AGO!

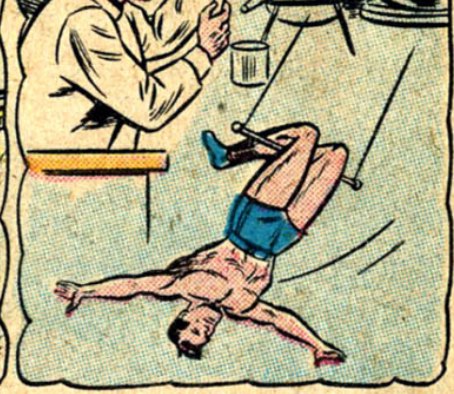
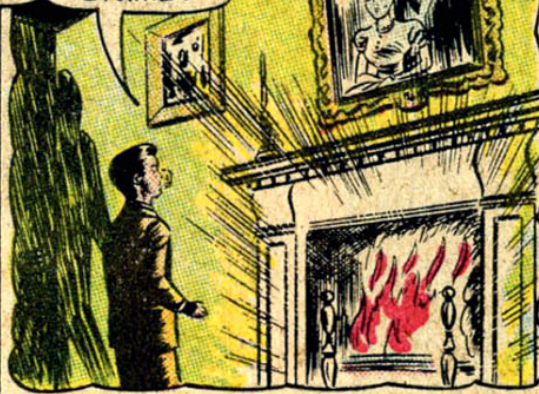


THEN THAT MEANS **YOUR FATHER WAS A "BATMAN" BEFORE YOU!**

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE FIRST **"BATMAN"**! I ADOPTED THE FIRST **BATMAN COSTUME YEARS AFTER** I SAW MY PARENTS KILLED BY A ROBBER!

BRUCE'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BOY AND MADE A PROMISE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS... I YOW THAT I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO BRING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHT ALL CRIME!

AS YEARS PASSED, BRUCE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION... TRAINED HIS BODY TO ATHLETIC PERFECTION...

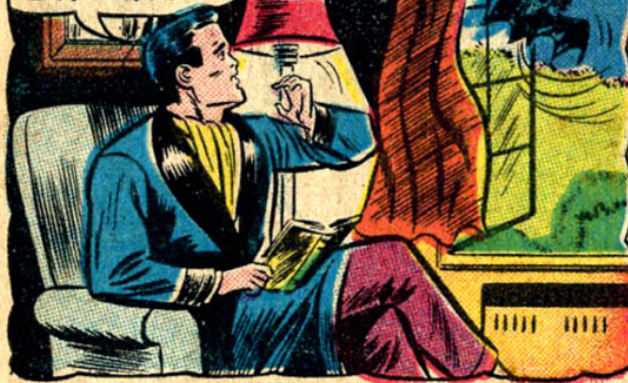


ONE NIGHT, HE WAS AT LAST READY FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER, BUT HE NEEDED A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO CRIMINAL HEARTS...

YEARS PASSED, AND **BATMAN** NEVER GAVE UP HIS SEARCH FOR THE KILLER! THEN ONE DAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING A CRIMINAL NAMED JOEY CHILL...

A BAT-- IT'S FLOWN IN THE WINDOW! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A **BAT-- A BATMAN!**

... IT'S THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS. HE'S OLDER NOW-- BUT I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT FACE!



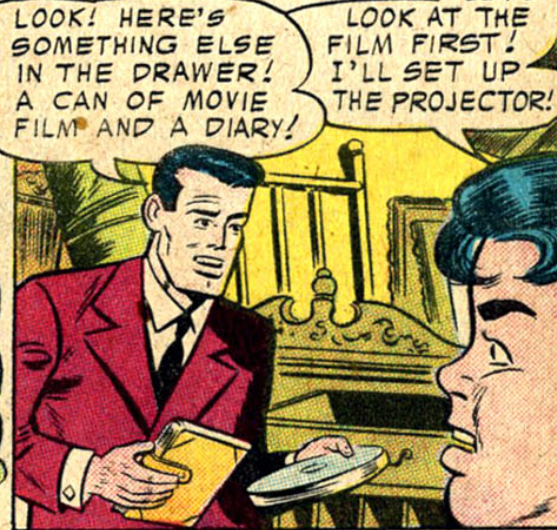
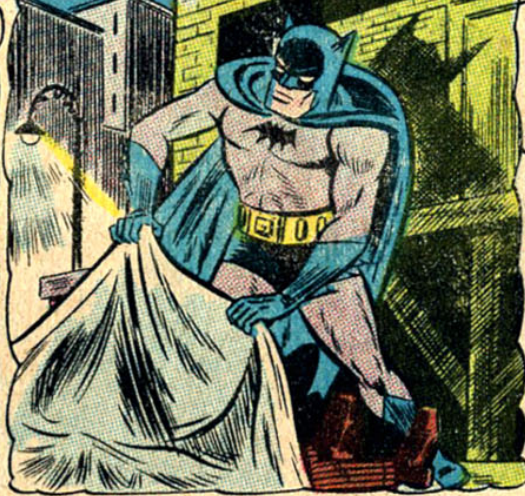
BUT, IRONICALLY, JOEY CHILL WAS SHOT DOWN BY OTHER MOBSTERS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM...

HE'S DEAD! HIS OWN CRIMES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!

THIS THEN, WAS THE ORIGIN OF **BATMAN**! THEN HOW COULD HIS FATHER HAVE BEEN A **BATMAN** BEFORE HIM?

LOOK! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRAWER! A CAN OF MOVIE FILM AND A DIARY!

LET'S LOOK AT THE FILM FIRST! I'LL SET UP THE PROJECTOR!

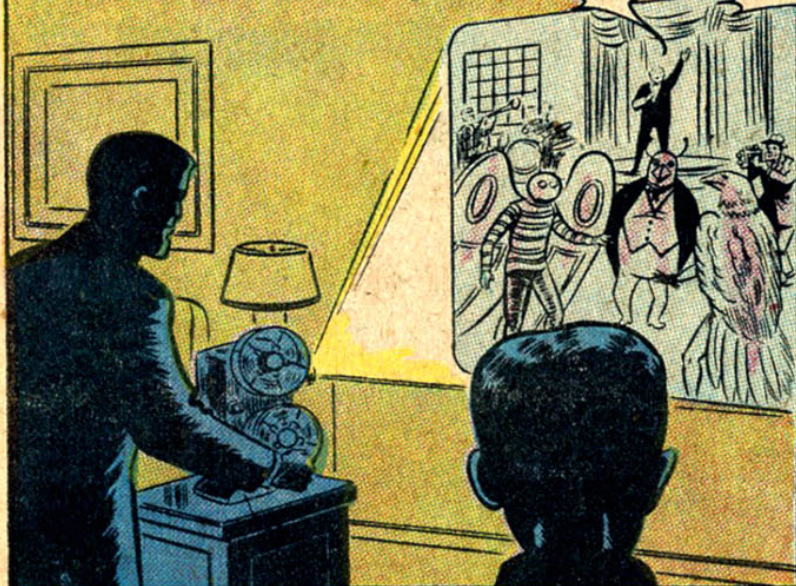


SOON, THE TWO VIEW AN EPISODE FROM THE PAST...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL IS "FLYING CREATURES"!

AND OUR FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST "FLYING CREATURE" COSTUME GOES TO DR. THOMAS WAYNE FOR HIS **BAT-MAN** COSTUME!

MY FATHER!

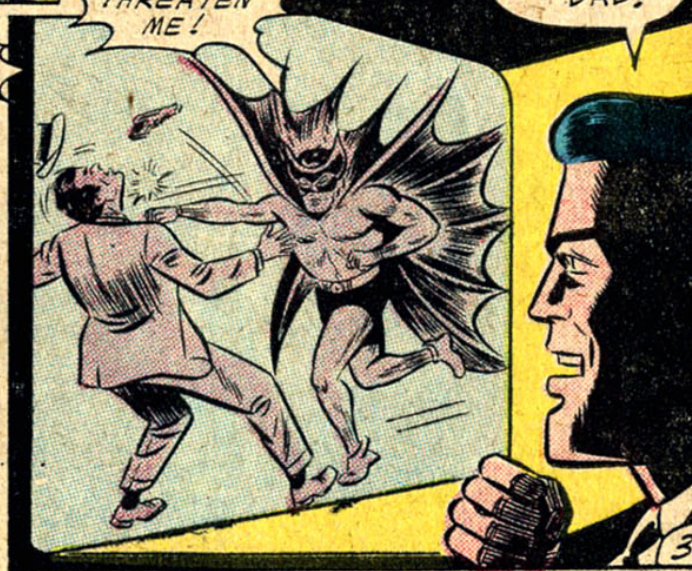


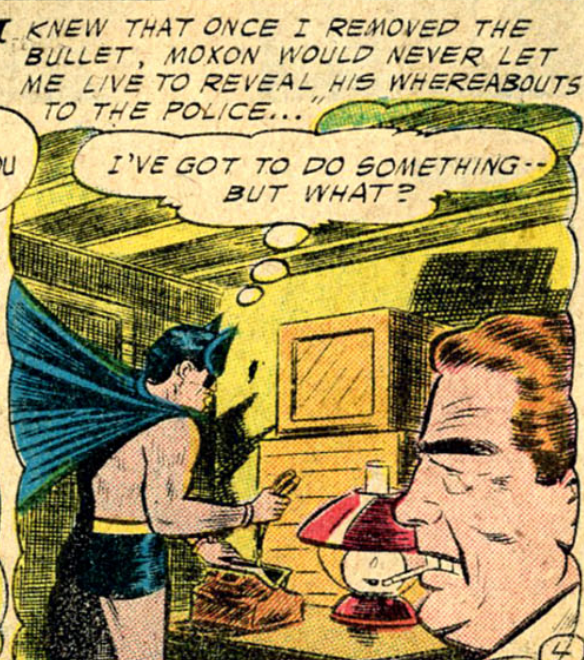
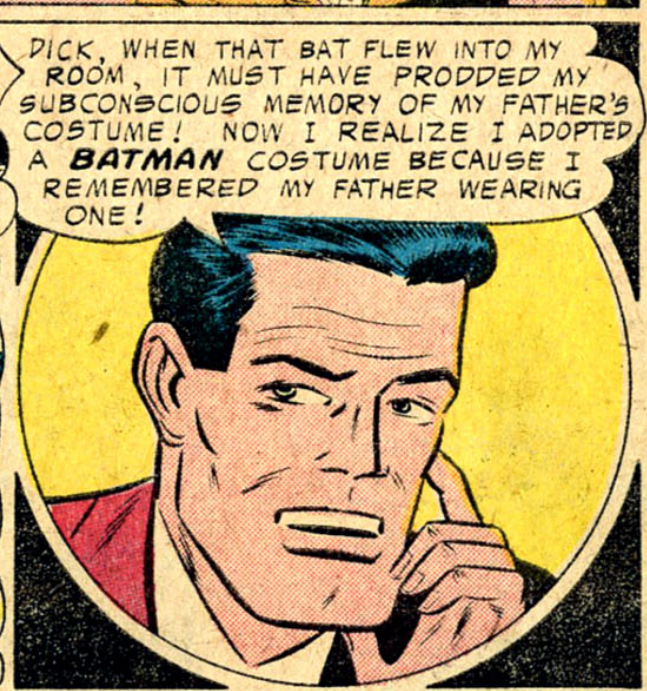
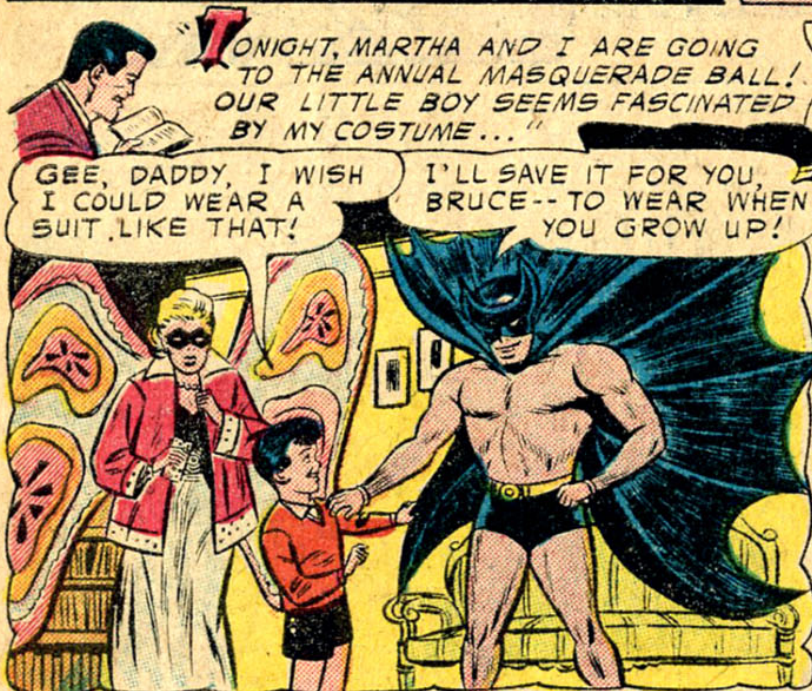
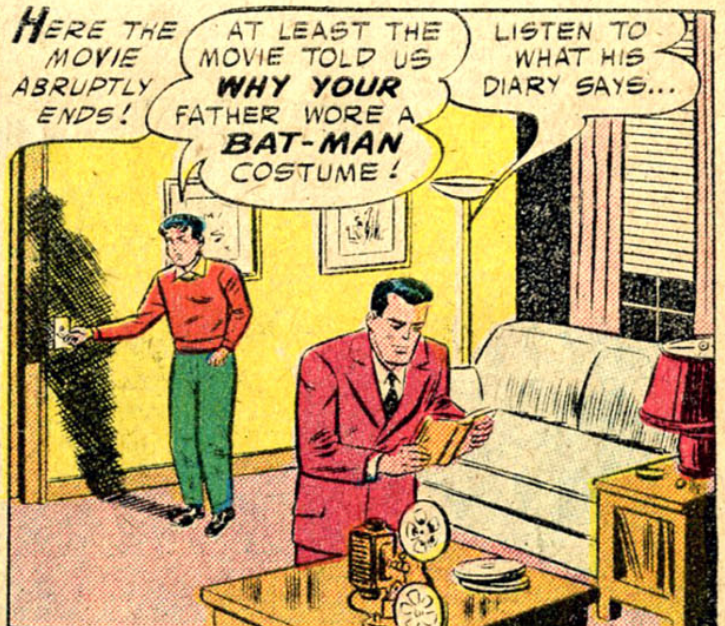
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!

ATTABOY, DAD!

SUDDENLY...

WE FIGURED THERE'D BE A DOC IN THIS CROWD! COME ON, DOC-- WE NEED YOU! MAKE IT SNAPPY!



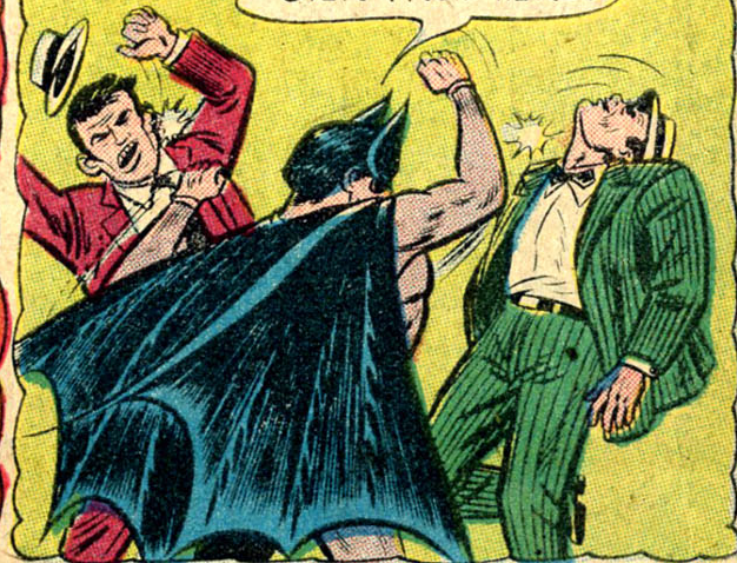


"I SUDDENLY HOOKED ONE FOOT AROUND MOXON'S CHAIR AND..."



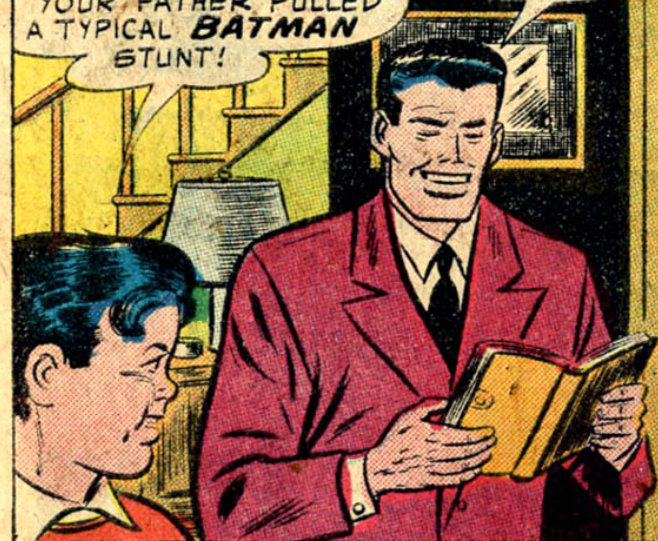
"THAT LEFT ONLY TWO HOODLUMS TO DEAL WITH!"

"I'LL LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER FROM HERE!"



WOW! EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRAINING IN FIGHTING CROOKS, YOUR FATHER PULLED A TYPICAL **BATMAN** STUNT!

MY FATHER WAS QUITE A GUY!



THE DIARY CONTINUES--"AT HIS TRIAL, MOXON WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY..."

"YOU DID THIS TO ME! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WAYNE-- I'LL GET YOU!"



"TEN YEARS ROLLED BY! I'D INVESTED MY SAVINGS WISELY AND BECAME WEALTHY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN MOXON UNTIL TODAY..."

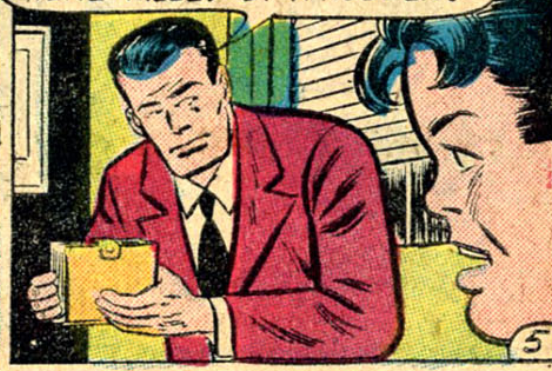
MOXON-- FREE!

YEAH--I SERVED MY TEN YEARS IN JAIL-- WHERE YOU PUT ME! I SWORE I'D GET YOU, AND I WILL!

BUT I'M TOO SMART TO DO IT MYSELF! THE POLICE WOULD ARREST ME ON SUSPICION FAST! I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME!

HERE THE DIARY ENDS!

THIS MEANS JOEY CHILL ONLY **PRETENDED** TO BE A HOLDUP MAN-- ACTUALLY HE WAS MOXON'S **HIRED KILLER!** MOXON MUST HAVE ORDERED CHILL **NOT** TO KILL ME, TOO-- SO I'D BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A ROBBER!



GOSH, BRUCE-- MOXON USED YOU AS HIS ALIBI!

HE USED ME AS A COVERUP FOR HIS DELIBERATE MURDER OF MY PARENTS! PUT ON YOUR COSTUME, DICK-- WE'VE JUST REOPENED THE WAYNE MURDER CASE!

LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

COMMISSIONER, I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF LEW MOXON!

I'LL HAVE THIS TELEPHOTOED TO EVERY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTRY!

AND WHEN THE INFORMATION COMES... MOXON IS NOW IN THE BILLBOARD BLIMP BUSINESS OUT WEST-- IN COASTAL CITY!

SOON AFTER, THE SLEEK BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE SKIES...

WHY DID YOU HAVE ME BRING ALONG YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME, BATMAN?

IT GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT MY FATHER IS WITH ME ON THIS CASE!

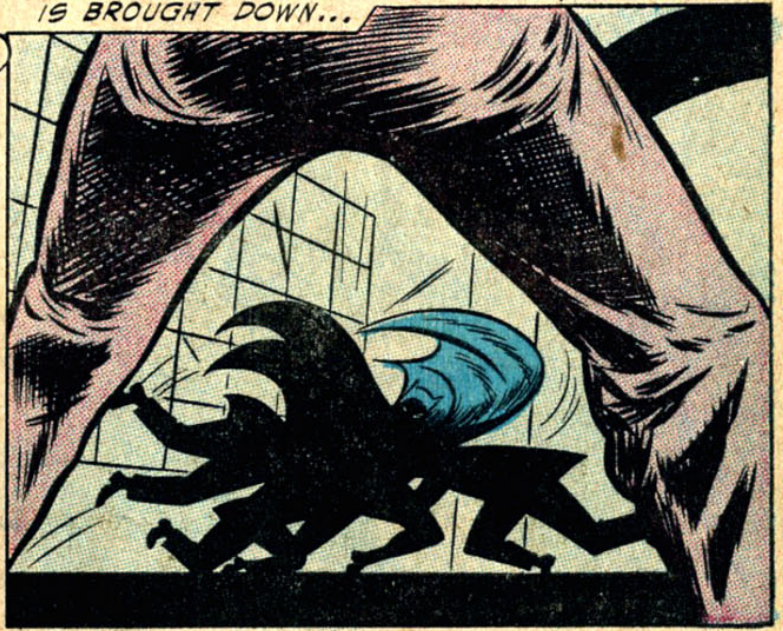
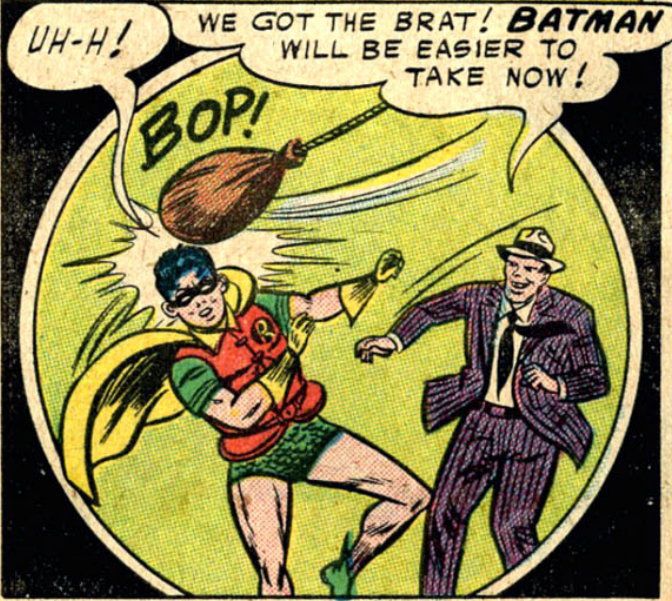
HOURS LATER, AT THEIR DESTINATION, TWO FIGURES MOVE LIKE SHADOWS TOWARDS A BLIMP HANGAR...

BUT, IN THE DARKNESS, ROBIN'S FOOT KICKS A MISPLACED GASOLINE CAN...

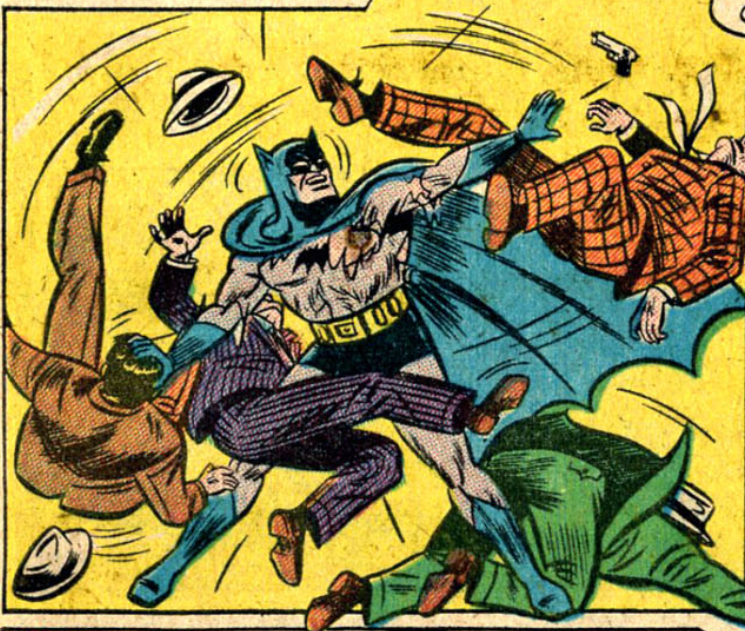
BATMAN AND ROBIN! GET 'EM!

As **ROBIN** DARTS FORWARD, A SWINGING **SANDBAG** TREACHEROUSLY FELS HIM!

UNDER THE IMPACT OF FOUR THUGS, **BATMAN** IS BROUGHT DOWN...



... BUT NOT FOR LONG!



THIS'LL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF ALL OF YOU!



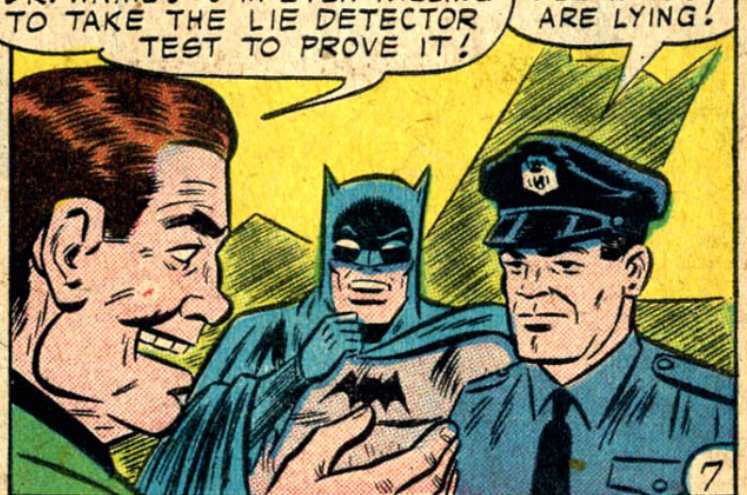
LATER... LEW MOXON, I'M CHARGING YOU WITH THE MURDER OF DR. THOMAS WAYNE!

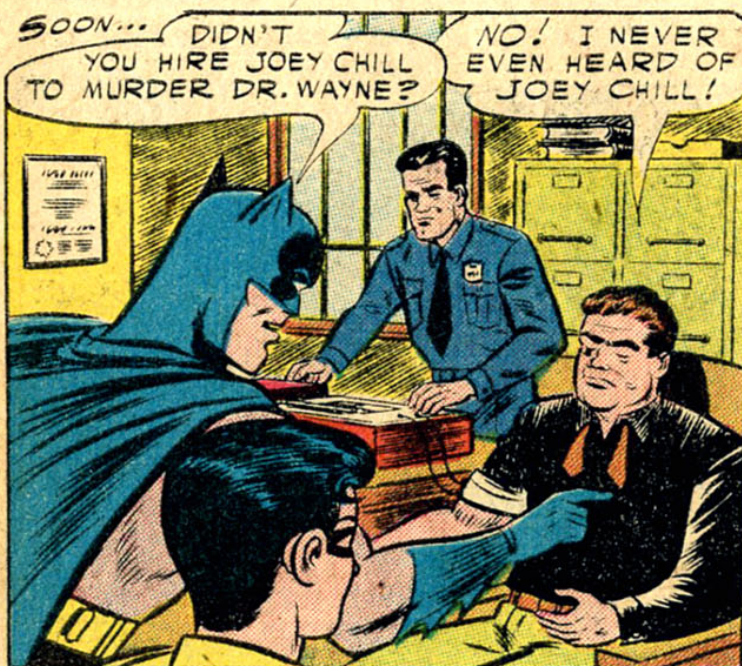
IS **THAT** WHAT YOU'RE AFTER ME FOR?

INCREDIBLY, A SMILE OF RELIEF PASSES OVER THE ACCUSED'S FACE...

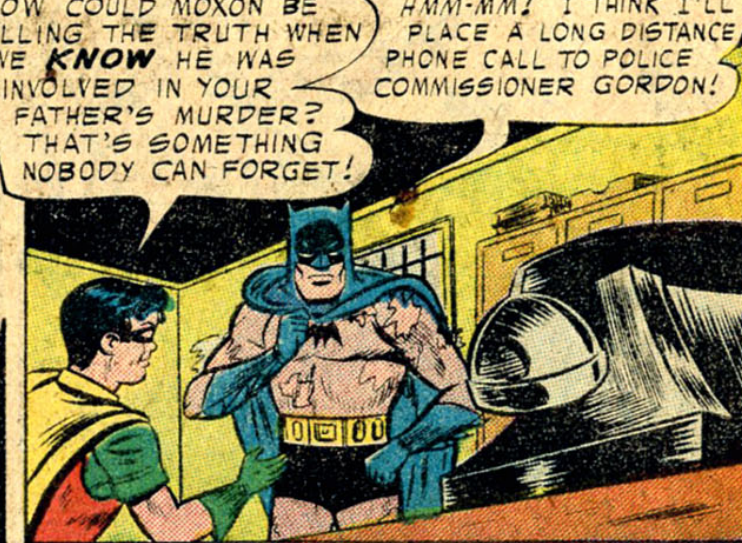
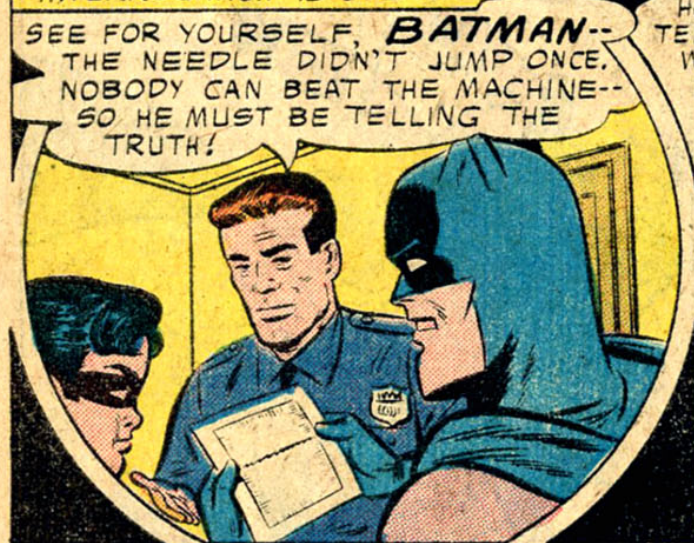
I NEVER HEARD OF ANY DR. WAYNE! I'M EVEN WILLING TO TAKE THE LIE DETECTOR TEST TO PROVE IT!

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SOON SEE IF YOU ARE LYING!





BATMAN CONTINUES TO HAMMER QUESTIONS AT THE PRISONER, AND WHEN THE INTERROGATION IS OVER... **HELPLESSLY, BATMAN** SEES MOXON RELEASED ON BAIL FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY... **FORGET?**





DETECTIVE COMICS



THAT NIGHT, A FLOATING BILLBOARD FLASHES ITS SKY-HIGH ELECTRIC SIGN...

NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENING SO FAR, **BATMAN!**

SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS WINK OUT, LEAVING THE DARK BLIMP ALMOST UNSEEN AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...

LOOK! A MAN IS BEING LOWERED TO THAT PENTHOUSE! SO THAT'S MOXON'S ANGLE-- USING HIS BLIMP TO PULL SKY-HIGH BURGLARY JOBS!

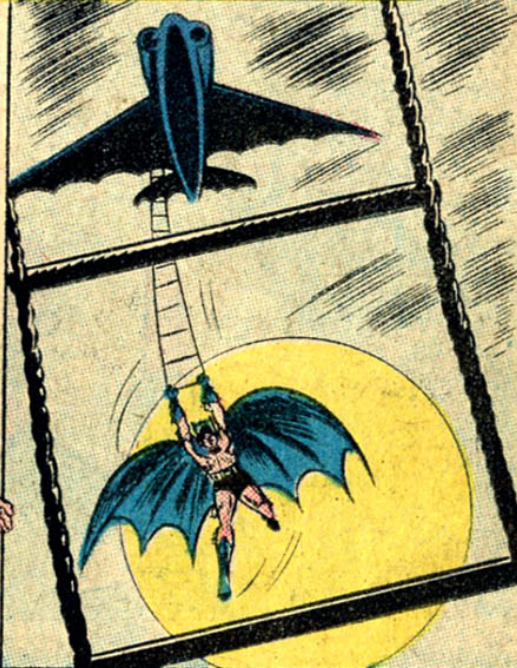
AFTER SETTING THE VERSATILE **BATPLANE** ON ROBOT STABILIZER CONTROLS...

LIKE A HAWK, ROBIN PLUMMETS DOWN ON HIS QUARRY!

MEANWHILE, THE ACROBATMAN TRAPEZES THROUGH SPACE...

ROBIN, YOU GO AFTER THE MAN ON THE ROOF-- I'LL TAKE THE GONDOLA!

LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE **DROP** ON YOU!



...AND SWIFTLY SCALING THE BLIMP'S ROPE LADDER, BURSTS INTO ITS GONDOLA!

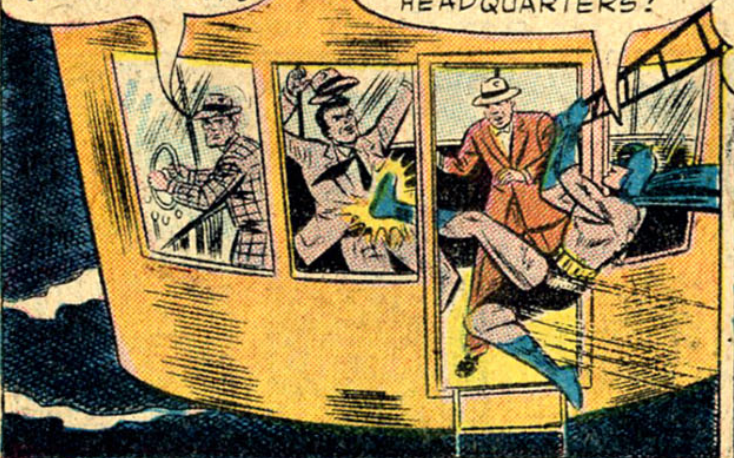
LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS ARE JAILED...

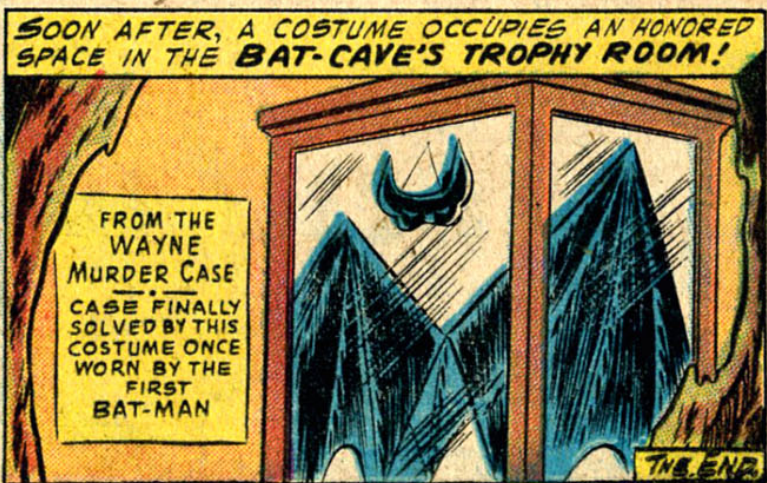
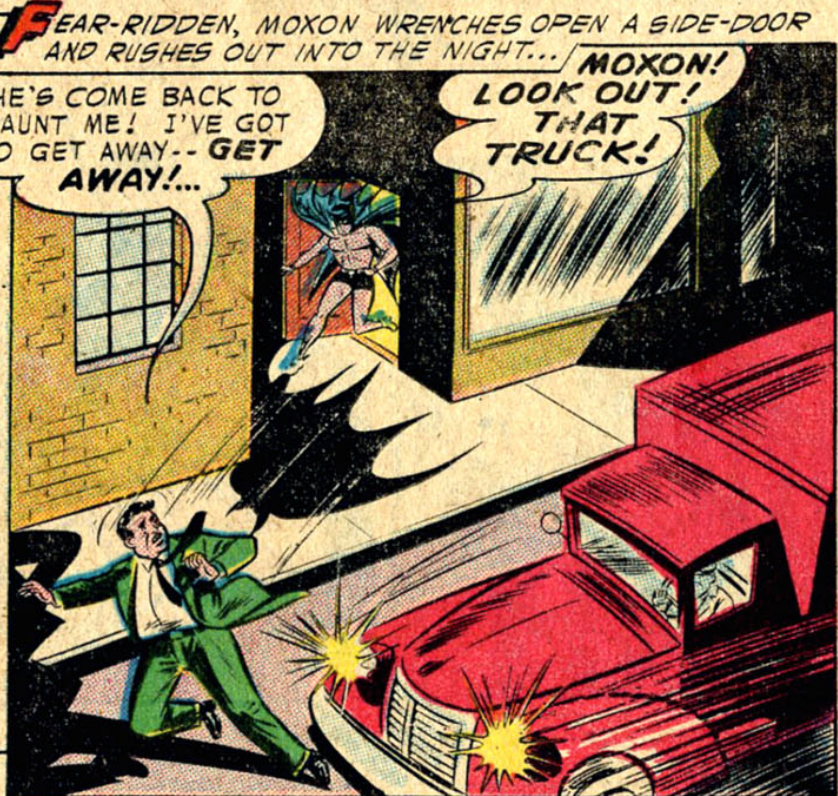
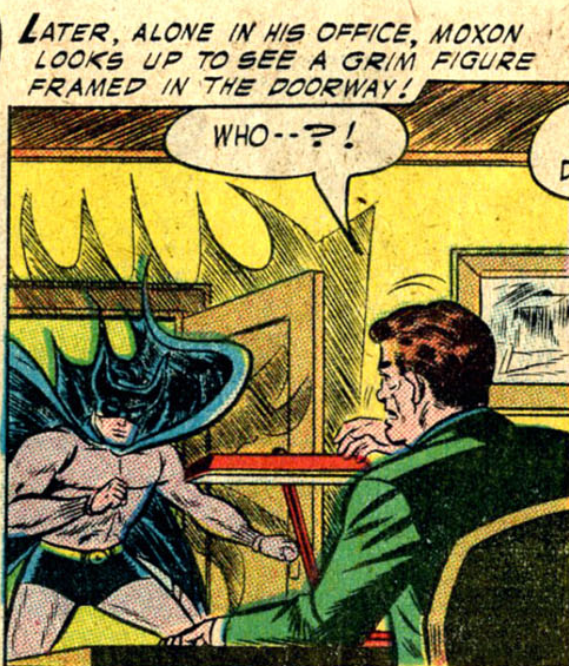
BATMAN!

THIS BLIMP'S NEXT STOP WILL BE POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

NOW LET'S PICK UP MOXON! BUT FIRST YOU'D BETTER CHANGE TO YOUR SPARE **BATMAN** COSTUME-- THAT LAST SCRAP REALLY SHREDDED THIS ONE!

OH, OH! I FORGOT TO PACK A SPARE IN THE **BATPLANE!**







10c

WORLD'S FINEST

COMICS

AUG.

NO. 89



Featuring
SUPERMAN
AND
BATMAN

in one adventure *Together--*
"The CLUB of HEROES!"

SOMEHOW, OUR NEW
HERO, *LIGHTNING MAN*,
MUST BE CAUSING A
MYSTERIOUS EFFECT ON
SUPERMAN! WE'VE GOT
TO STOP HIM!



YOUR TWO FAVORITE HEROES

SUPERMAN

and

BATMAN
AND
ROBIN

IN ONE
ADVENTURE
Together!

WHEN THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES
IN THE WORLD ARE GATHERED
TOGETHER, WHO AMONG THEM WILL
BE CHOSEN AS THE GREATEST?
WILL IT BE **SUPERMAN**, THE MIGHTY
MAN OF STEEL? OR **BATMAN**,
THE GALLANT, CAPED
CRIME-BUSTER? AMAZINGLY
ENOUGH, IT'S NEITHER-- FOR
THEY ARE ECLIPSED BY A FABULOUS
NEWCOMER WHO CAN MATCH ALL
THEIR FEATS AND POWERS! AND THE
TWO LAWMEN MUST STRUGGLE TO
SOLVE A PERILOUS MYSTERY WHICH
CENTERS AROUND THAT
MYSTERIOUS
NEWCOMER
WHO
LEADS...

**"THE
CLUB
OF
HEROES"**

DAILY PLANET 5¢
**NEW HERO, LIGHTNING-MAN,
PREVENTS
DISASTER**

I GUESS YOU AND
I HAVE TO TAKE
SECOND PLACE
TO THIS NEW
LIGHTNING-MAN
FROM NOW ON!



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WORLD'S FINEST COMICS



ONE NIGHT, IN METROPOLIS, A NEWS-SIGN BLAZES AN URGENT MESSAGE...

SOMETHING BIG MUST BE UP... I'D BETTER CHANGE COSTUME FAST!



AND MILD-MANNERED REPORTER CLARK KENT SWIFTLY BECOMES MIGHTY **SUPERMAN**, TO ANSWER A FATEFUL SUMMONS...



MEANWHILE, A SYMBOL IN THE GOTHAM CITY SKIES SUMMONS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

YES, THAT'S WHY I FLASHED THE **BAT-SIGNAL**... YOU'RE NEEDED IN METROPOLIS!

THINGS ARE QUIET HERE, COMMISSIONER... WE'LL HURRY UP THERE AT ONCE!



AROUND THE WORLD FLASHES THE SAME MYSTERIOUS SUMMONS, TO THE TWO GREAT LAWYERS OF ENGLAND...

... AND THE **KNIGHT** AND **SQUIRE** ARE ASKED TO COME TO METROPOLIS!

WE'LL ANSWER THAT CALL! BUT NO ONE MUST GUESS OUR REAL IDENTITIES-- SO WE'LL WEAR OUR **KNIGHT** AND **SQUIRE** COSTUMES IN AMERICA, TOO!



THE **MUSKETEER**, GREAT MASKED LAWYER OF FRANCE, IS SUMMONED ALSO... I WILL RETURN WHEN I FIND OUT WHY THEY NEED ME IN L'AMERIQUE!

WE WILL MISS YOU, M'SIEU **MUSKETEER**, FOR EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW NOT YOUR REAL NAME, YOU ARE A TERROR TO LAWBREAKERS!



THE **GAUCHO** OF SOUTH AMERICA, TOO...

HERE IS THE THIEF YOU WANTED!

MUCHAS GRACIAS, **GAUCHO**... WE KNEW YOU'D RUN HIM DOWN! BUT THERE IS A CALL FOR YOU, FROM NORTE AMERICA!



AND THAT HERO IN FARAWAY ITALY, WHO CONCEALS HIS IDENTITY UNDER ANCIENT ROMAN GUISE...

YES, WE ARE HONORED TO CARRY TO AMERICA THE **LEGIONARY**, OUR GREATEST HERO!

BUT WHY HAVE ALL THESE GREAT LAWYERS BEEN SUMMONED TO METROPOLIS? IT MUST BE FOR SOME TREMENDOUS REASON!



IT IS, INDEED, A GREAT OCCASION THAT GATHERS TOGETHER THE FAMOUS HEROES OF ALL LANDS...

...FOR A METROPOLIS MILLIONAIRE HAS HAD AN INSPIRATION...

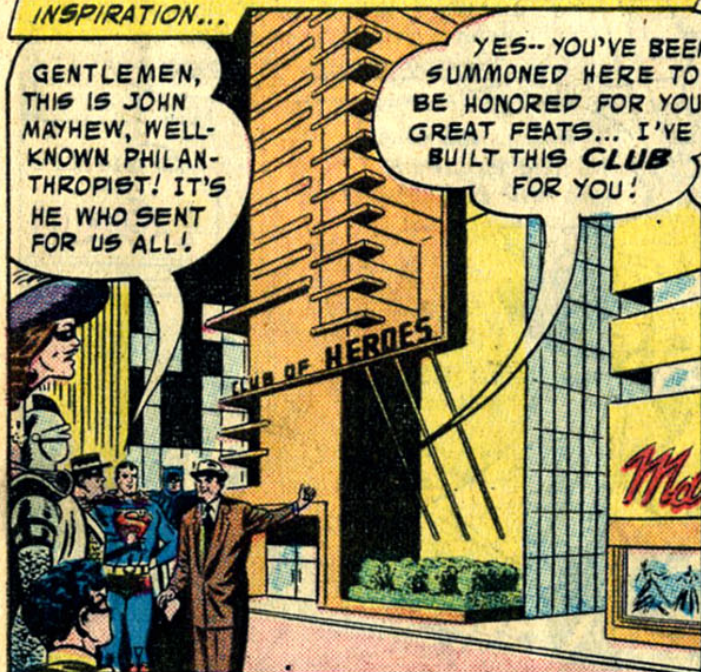
AND INSIDE...

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS JOHN MAYHEW, WELL-KNOWN PHILANTHROPIST! IT'S HE WHO SENT FOR US ALL!

YES-- YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED HERE TO BE HONORED FOR YOUR GREAT FEATS... I'VE BUILT THIS **CLUB** FOR YOU!

THIS IS THE **CLUB OF HEROES**-- AND ALL OF YOU, BY YOUR GREAT DEEDS, BELONG TO IT! I'LL DEED IT TO WHOMEVER YOU SELECT AS CHAIRMAN!

WHAT A GIFT! THIS LAND AND BUILDING ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!



SUPERMAN IS THE LOGICAL CHOICE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THIS CLUB, SO MAKE THE DEED OUT TO HIM, MR. MAYHEW!

OH, NO-- **BATMAN** HAS DONE TREMENDOUS FEATS, AND SO HAVE ALL THESE OTHERS! ONE OF **THEM** DESERVES THE HONOR!

WELL--THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THE MATTER... WHOEVER PERFORMS THE GREATEST FEATS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE YOUR CHAIRMAN!

FINE! THE VISITORS CAN STAY RIGHT HERE IN THE CLUB-HOUSE!

SPLENDIDE!



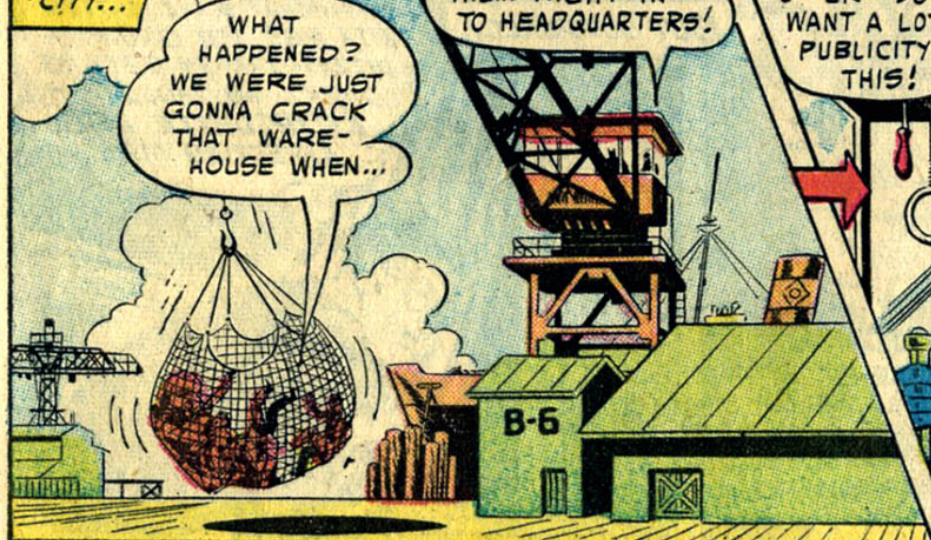
SO NEXT DAY, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RETURN TO ACTION IN GOTHAM CITY...

WHAT HAPPENED? WE WERE JUST GONNA CRACK THAT WARE-HOUSE WHEN...

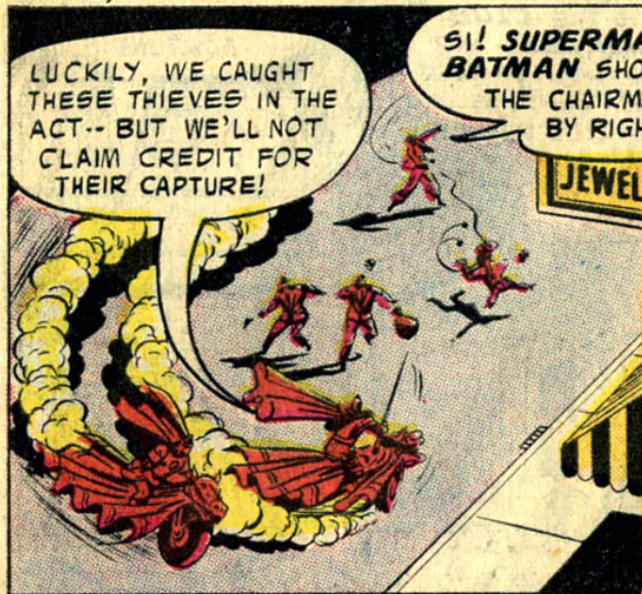
THIS CARGO-NET MAKES A FINE WAY TO CATCH CROOKED FISH, **BATMAN**! WE CAN TAKE THEM RIGHT IN TO HEADQUARTERS!

NO, WE'LL JUST PHONE POLICE TO COME AND GET THEM! I--ER--DON'T WANT A LOT OF PUBLICITY ON THIS!

I GET IT... YOU WANT **SUPERMAN** TO WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE **HEROES' CLUB**, SO YOU'LL KEEP YOUR OWN FEATS QUIET! I'M FOR IT!

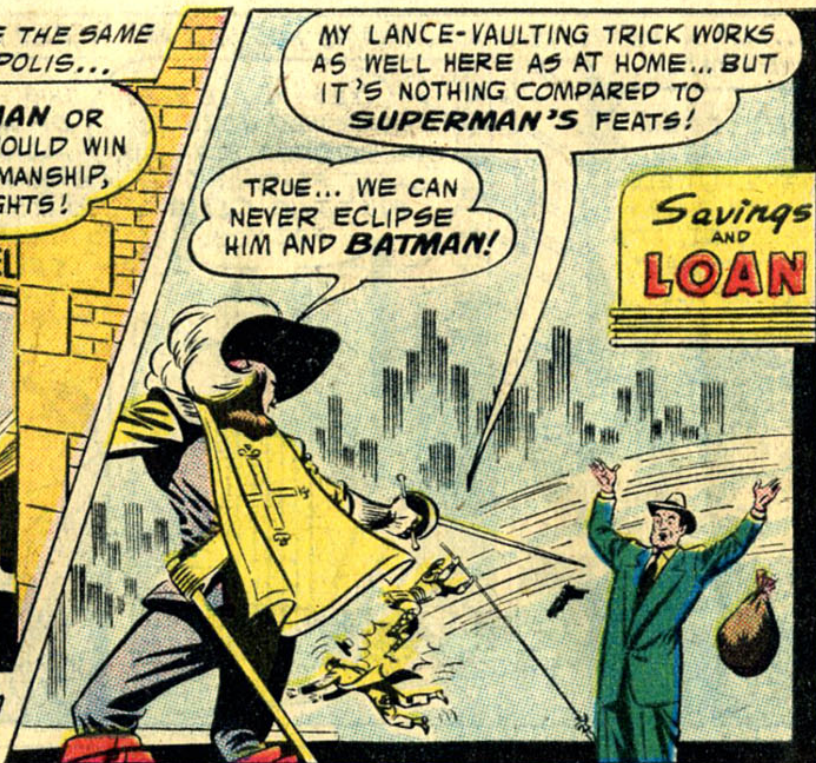


BUT OTHERS OF THE HERO-LAWMEN HAVE THE SAME IDEA, AS THEY GO INTO ACTION IN METROPOLIS...

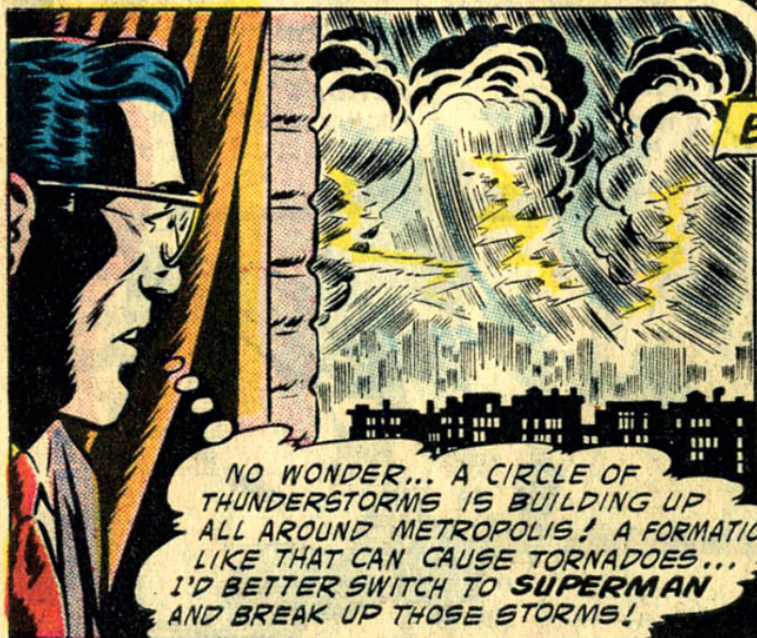


SI! **SUPERMAN** OR **BATMAN** SHOULD WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP, BY RIGHTS!

JEWEL



AS FOR **SUPERMAN** HIMSELF, ON A HILL ROAD OUTSIDE THE CITY...



BUT SUDDENLY...



BUT KRYPTONITE, THE ONE COSMIC SUBSTANCE THAT CAN WEAKEN **SUPERMAN**, IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT...

M-MY X-RAY, TELESCOPIC VISION... SCANNING THE ENTIRE CITY... CAN'T SPOT IT--ANYWHERE! YET--I'M PASSING OUT...



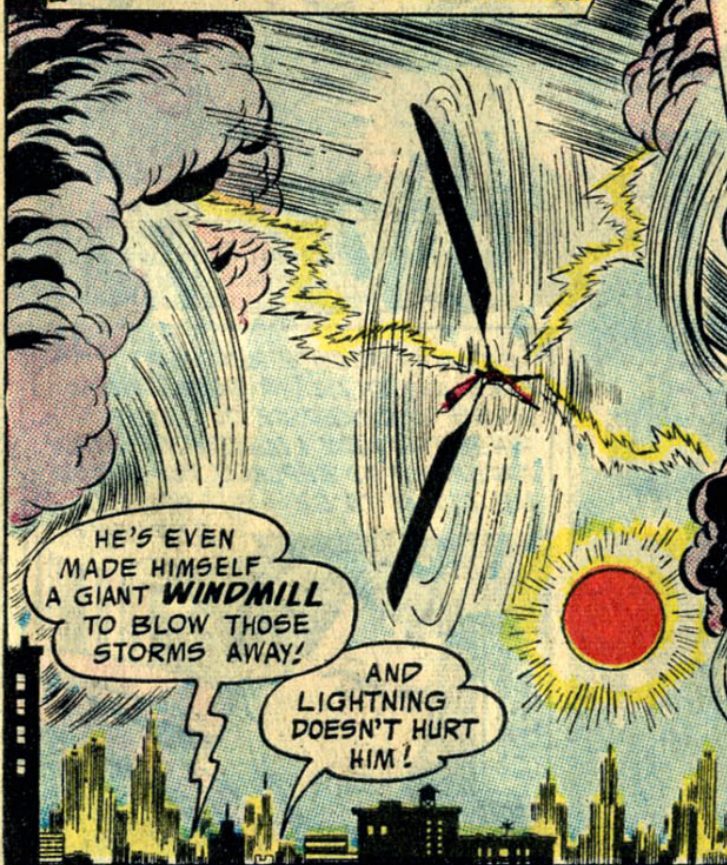
IN THE MEANTIME, WHERE LOIS LANE AWAILS CLARK...

THAT'S A POSSIBLE TORNADO STORM-PATTERN! WHY DOESN'T **SUPERMAN** BREAK IT UP?

DON'T WORRY--HE WILL!



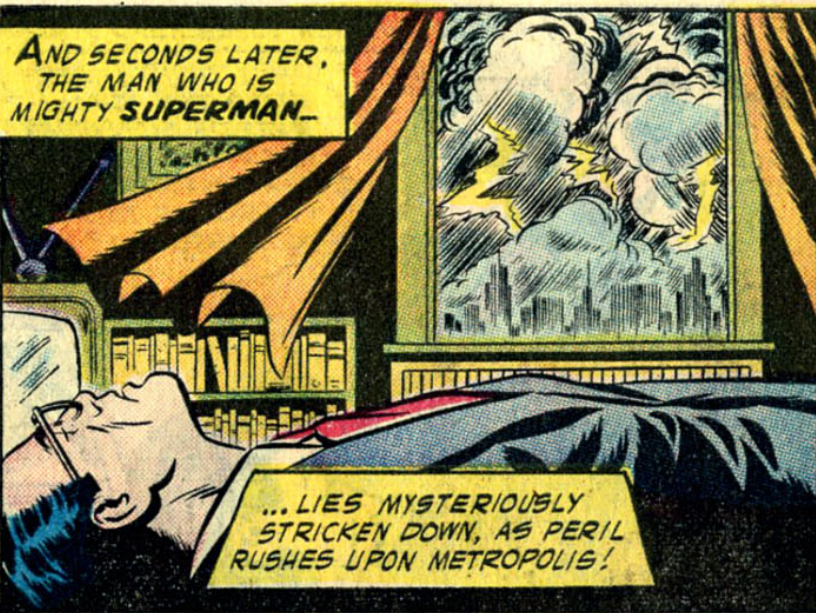
WHO INDEED, IF NOT **SUPERMAN**?



HE'S EVEN MADE HIMSELF A GIANT WINDMILL TO BLOW THOSE STORMS AWAY!

AND LIGHTNING DOESN'T HURT HIM!

AND SECONDS LATER, THE MAN WHO IS MIGHTY **SUPERMAN**...



... LIES MYSTERIOUSLY STRICKEN DOWN, AS PERIL RUSHES UPON METROPOLIS!

JUST THEN...

AH-- THERE HE... WAIT! THAT ISN'T **SUPERMAN**!

BUT... WHO ELSE COULD FLY LIKE THAT?



AFTERWARD, WITH THE STORMS DISPELLED...

YOU CAN CALL ME... **LIGHTNING-MAN!**

YOU HAVE **SUPER-POWERS**, BUT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF YOU BEFORE! WHO ARE YOU?



AND AS THIS NEW SUPER-HERO STREAKS AWAY...

LIKE SUPERMAN, HE KEEPS HIS IDENTITY SECRET! BUT HE'S SURE TERRIFIC!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL! WHERE'S SUPERMAN? WHY DIDN'T HE MEET THAT DANGER, INSTEAD OF THIS NEWCOMER?

TO LEARN THE ANSWER, LOIS WOULD HAVE TO VISIT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, WHERE, SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ME, IT REALLY KNOCKED ME OUT! I WAS JUST PREPARING TO MEET THAT STORM-DANGER... BETTER CHANGE FAST!

BUT AS CLARK HASTILY SWITCHES FOR ACTION...

...AND THIS NEWS-PHOTO SHOWS HOW THE NEW HERO, LIGHTNING-MAN, DISPERSED THE TORNADO-THREAT BY SUPER-ACTION!

WHAT--? WH-WHO'S LIGHTNING-MAN? HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS? AND WHAT KNOCKED ME OUT LIKE THAT?

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KRYPTONITE, BECAUSE I SAW NONE FOR MILES AROUND! WHAT'S MORE, I KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF ALL KRYPTONITE DANGERS, AND THE LAST WAS...

...THAT BIG METEOR, CONTAINING KRYPTONITE, WHICH APPROACHED EARTH DAYS AGO!

CAN'T LET THAT METEOR REACH EARTH, OR CROOKS MIGHT GET THE KRYPTONITE ON IT, AND USE IT AGAINST ME! I'LL KNOCK IT BACK INTO SPACE...

WITHIN SECONDS, I WAS OUT OF DANGER...

THAT MOUNTAIN I THREW HIT IT AND KNOCKED IT BACK! THE METEOR WILL NEVER RETURN TO EARTH!

SO NO KRYPTONITE REACHED EARTH-- WHICH MEANS SOMETHING ELSE KNOCKED ME OUT, JUST WHEN THIS NEW LIGHTNING-MAN APPEARED TO REPLACE ME! MAYBE HE DID IT TO ME-- BUT HOW?... AND WHY?

IT'S A WORRIED **MAN OF STEEL** WHO ATTENDS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE **CLUB OF HEROES**...

SO FAR, THIS NEW HERO **LIGHTNING-MAN** HAS TOPPED YOU BY HIS GREAT FEAT, **SUPERMAN**! I SHALL INVITE HIM TO JOIN THE CLUB!

I WONDER-- COULD THAT BE THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY? I'LL CONSULT **BATMAN**...

WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER...

...AND THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** COULD BE **FAKING** SUPER-STUNTS BY SCIENTIFIC MEANS, SO THAT HE CAN WIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CLUB! REMEMBER, MAYHEW WILL DEED THE CLUBHOUSE AND ITS GROUNDS TO THE CHAIR-MAN!

THAT PROPERTY'S WORTH A FORTUNE... IT COULD BE **LIGHTNING-MAN'S** MOTIVE! WE'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS...

BACK AT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, THE GREATEST DETECTIVE DUO IN THE WORLD INVESTIGATES A SUPER-MYSTERY...

SOMETHING HIT ME AND KNOCKED ME OUT--THAT'S ALL I KNOW!

HMM... ONE OF THE DRAPES HERE IS MISSING, AS THOUGH TORN AWAY BY SOME TERRIFIC FORCE!

BUT WHAT FORCE COULD THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** USE TO OVERPOWER ME?

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT! YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO COVER THE TEST OF THE NEW ATOM-PLANE TODAY... WE'LL SEE IF THIS THING HAPPENS TO YOU AGAIN!

LATER, AS **BATMAN** UTILIZES HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILL...

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH TO **SUPERMAN** AND GET TO THAT ATOM-PLANE TEST!

GO AHEAD... THESE INSTRUMENTS WILL DETECT ANY UNUSUAL FORCE! IF THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** TRIES TO KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN, WE'LL KNOW IT!

BUT, IRONICALLY, AT THAT MOMENT...

WHY-- A FORCE IS HITTING THIS APARTMENT **NOW**... A RADIATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF KRYPTONITE!

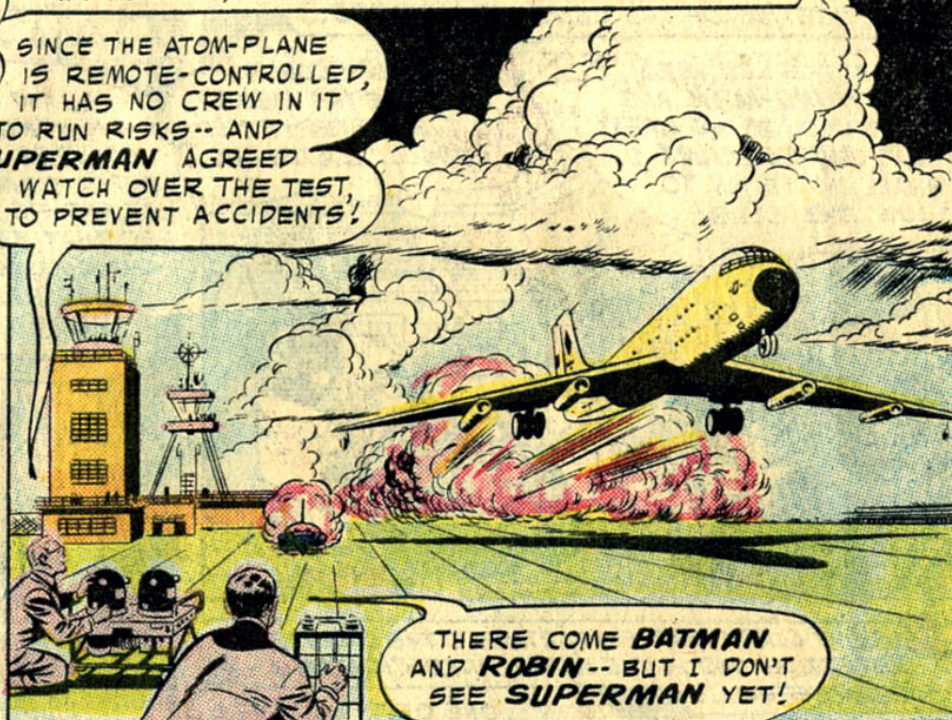
BATMAN-- LOOK AT CLARK! HE'S PASSING OUT AGAIN!

THAT PROVES IT-- SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY KNOCKING HIM OUT WITH THAT RADIATION!

AND THAT SOME-ONE COULD BE **LIGHTNING-MAN!** COME ON... WE'LL SEE IF HE SHOWS UP AT THAT PLANE-TEST!

AND AS A BIG, NEW ATOM-POWERED PLANE IS LAUNCHED...

SINCE THE ATOM-PLANE IS REMOTE-CONTROLLED, IT HAS NO CREW IN IT TO RUN RISKS-- AND **SUPERMAN** AGREED TO WATCH OVER THE TEST, TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS!



AT THAT INSTANT...



THERE HE IS!... **LIGHTNING-MAN!** HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS?

THAT'S A MYSTERY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S KNOCKING OUT **SUPERMAN** WITH RADIATION EACH TIME, SO **HE** CAN PERFORM BIG FEATS!

AND AS SUDDEN DANGER ARISES...

THE POWER-PLANT OF THE PLANE HAS RUN WILD... IT'LL BE A MENACE WITH ITS RADIATION IF IT CRASHES ANY-WHERE! BUT IT CAN'T HURT ME...



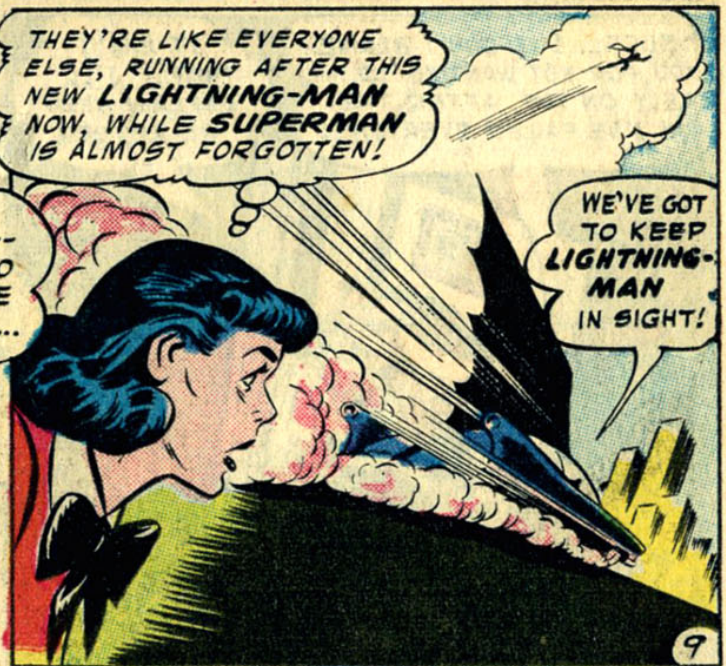
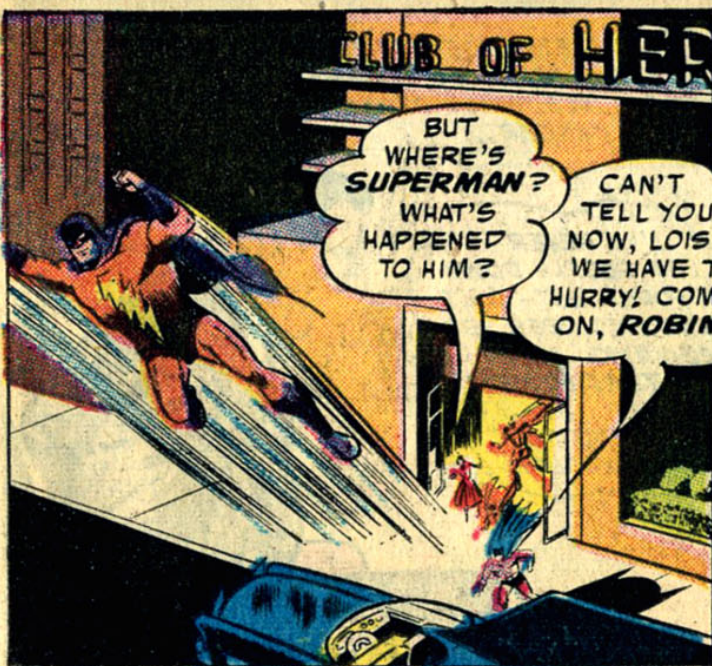
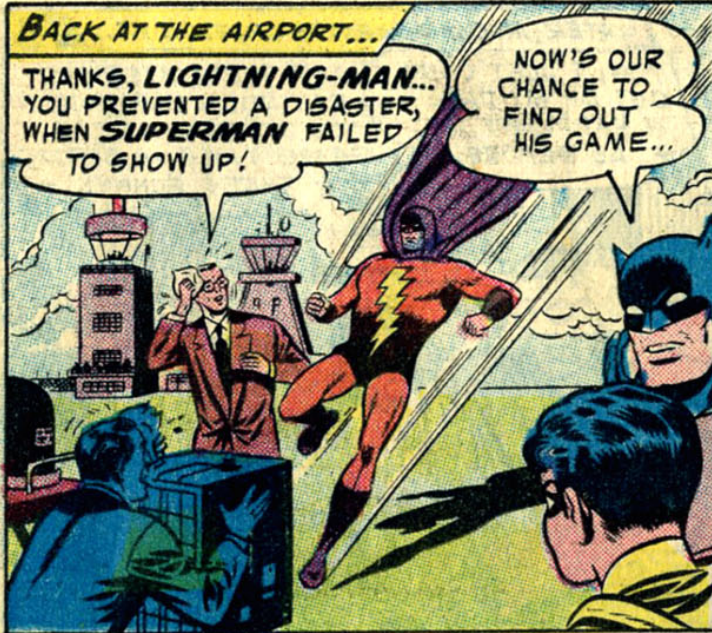
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CRATER OF A LONG-EXTINCT VOLCANO...

THIS WILL BURY THE DEADLY PLANE, FOR ALL TIME, WHERE ITS RADIATION CAN'T LEAK OUT AND HARM ANYONE!



I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S SAFELY DISPOSED...





BUT THE SUPER-SPEED OF THIS NEW HERO IS TOO MUCH FOR THE DYNAMIC DUO...



IT'S NO USE-- WE CAN'T FOLLOW ANYONE THAT FAST!

AND WE OUGHT TO GET BACK TO CLARK, AND SEE IF HE'S COME OUT OF IT YET!

LATER, AT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT...



YES, I JUST CAME OUT OF MY DAZE-- IT HAPPENED JUST AS BEFORE!

AND THE MYSTERIOUS RADIATION THAT KNOCKED YOU OUT CAME AT THE SAME TIME AS BEFORE! THAT'S FUNNY!

IT **MUST** BE THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** WHO'S KNOCKING ME OUT-- BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT-- SO I'M GOING TO SET UP A DIFFERENT GADGET, WHICH WILL SOLVE THE MYSTERY, IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN TOMORROW!

NEXT DAY, AS THE HOUR OF DANGER APPROACHES...

I'M READY TO GO WITH YOU OTHER LAWMEN TO ESCORT THAT CONVICT-CARAVAN!

NO, **SUPERMAN**-- IF THAT MYSTERIOUS RADIATION HIT YOU AT THE SAME TIME TO-DAY, IT COULD BE DISASTROUS TO OUR ESCORT PLANS! I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE, AS CLARK KENT!



SURE... I--I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT WANTING TO RELY ON ME, AFTER THE WAY I'VE FAILED EVERYONE!

IT ISN'T THAT... I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN WE RETURN!



IT'S A STRANGE FEELING FOR THE MAN OF STEEL TO SIT IDLE, WHILE OTHERS FACE DANGER...

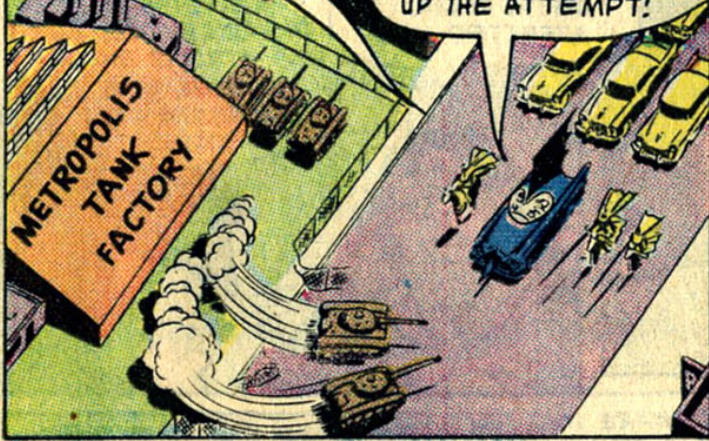
I'VE NEVER LET PEOPLE DOWN BEFORE! BUT-- WAIT... THAT DIZZINESS IS BEGINNING AGAIN! **BATMAN** WAS RIGHT... I'M STARTING TO BLACK OUT!



MEANWHILE, WHERE FAMOUS LAWMEN ESCORT DANGEROUS CONVICTS TO A NEW PRISON...

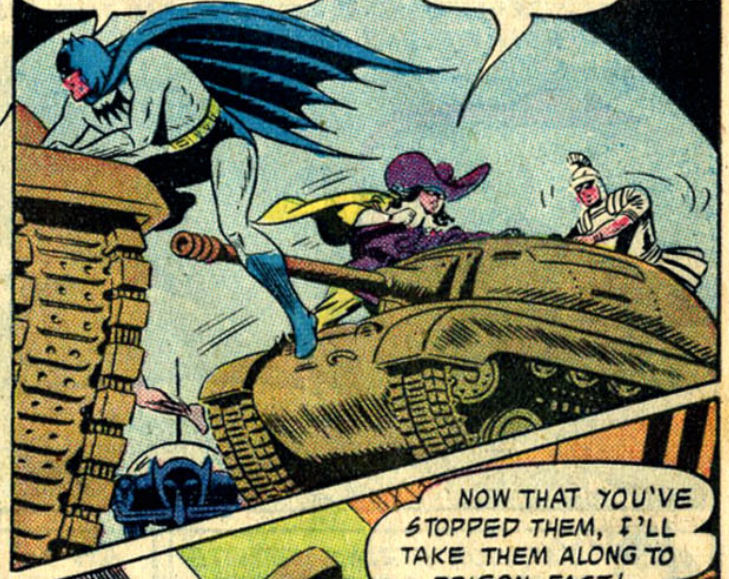
LOOK, **BATMAN**-- THOSE TANKS ARE COMING OUT AT US!

CROOKS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY WAITING IN THEM, TO TRY TO RESCUE THEIR PALS! WE'VE GOT TO BREAK UP THE ATTEMPT!



MUFFLE THEIR EYE-SLIT LOOPHOLES SO THEY CAN'T SEE OUT!

OW! THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO EMERGE IN THE OPEN!



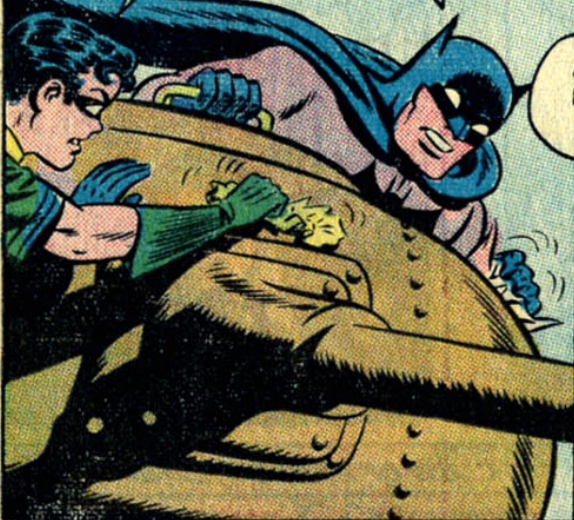
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOPPED THEM, I'LL TAKE THEM ALONG TO PRISON FAST!

THESE STRIPS, TORN FROM OUR CAPES, WILL BLIND THE TANKS!

BUT THEY'LL COME OUT SHOOTING NOW... BE READY!

BUT BEFORE THE TANKS' OCCUPANTS CAN EMERGE...

WOW! **LIGHTNING-MAN** IS CLEANING THEM UP IN ONE SWOOP!



LATER, AS CLARK KENT HAS ANOTHER STRANGE AWAKENING...

IT HAPPENED AGAIN! WHO'S DOING THIS TO ME, **BATMAN**?

NO ONE IS DOING IT! I WANT YOU, AS **SUPERMAN**, TO SEARCH THE SKY BEYOND METROPOLIS!

AND VERY SOON, BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES...

LIGHTNING-MAN, YOUR FEATS HAVE WON YOU THE CHAIRMANSHIP-- SO I'VE DEEDED THE CLUBHOUSE PROPERTY TO YOU!

THANKS... I MUST LEAVE NOW!

NO USE FOLLOWING HIM-- WE'LL GO BACK TO **SUPERMAN**!



As the **MAN OF STEEL** SWIFTLY COMBS THE SKY...

WHY, THAT'S A CHIPPED-OFF FRAGMENT OF THE KRYPTONITE-ASTEROID I KNOCKED AWAY DAYS AGO! IT'S BEEN CIRCLING EARTH EVER SINCE!



AFTER BLOWING THE KRYPTONITE INTO OUTER SPACE WITH SUPER-BREATH, **SUPERMAN** RETURNS TO HEAR A STARTLING EXPLANATION...

THEN EVERY TIME THAT LITTLE KRYPTONITE-SATELLITE WENT OVER METROPOLIS, IT AFFECTED ME?

YES... AND IT WAS THE REGULARITY OF THE TIME THAT MADE ME SUSPECT THAT! IT DIDN'T PARALYZE YOU, BUT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU **AMNESIA** EACH TIME!



"YET, YOUR STRONG INSTINCTS TO PREVENT DISASTER, AND TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY SECRET, STILL MOVED YOU TO ACTION..."

"AND SO, UNAWARE WHO YOU REALLY WERE, YOU YOURSELF BECAME **LIGHTNING-MAN**..."

AND EACH TIME, WHEN THE KRYPTONITE AMNESIA-INFLUENCE PASSED AWAY, YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER THAT YOU'D BEEN **LIGHTNING-MAN**.

HAVE TO BREAK UP THOSE TORNADO-STORMS, BUT MUSN'T LET ANYONE KNOW WHO I AM! THIS CLOTH WILL MAKE A COSTUME AND MASK FOR ME!

JOB'S FINISHED... GOT TO HIDE THIS COSTUME! NO ONE MUST KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!

MIND'S A BLANK... MUST'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS ALL THAT TIME!



I FIGURED THAT WAS IT, FROM THE CLUE OF THE MISSING DRAPE-- AND PLANTED THIS AUTOMATIC CAMERA, WHICH **PHOTOGRAPHED** YOU CHANGING TO **LIGHTNING-MAN** LAST TIME!

BUT NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE SATELLITE'S GONE, IT CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN-- AND I'LL EXPLAIN TO THE CLUB!

SO BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES, LATER...

YOU WON THE CHAIRMANSHIP FAIRLY AS **LIGHTNING-MAN**... SO WE INSIST THAT AS **SUPERMAN**, YOU KEEP IT!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN ALL THE TIME-- **NO ONE** COULD EVER TOP **SUPERMAN**, EXCEPT HIMSELF!





PART TWO
SUPERNATURAL AND
STRANGE HAPPENSTANCE



10¢

DEC.
NO. 112



BATMAN

THE FAMED LAWMAN
ASKS THE BIGGEST
QUESTION OF HIS LIFE--
**"AM I Really
BATMAN?"**

THERE'S THE MAN WHO
THINKS HE'S *BATMAN*,
OFFICER--BUT *THIS* IS THE
REAL BATMAN NEXT
TO ME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO ME? IF I'M NOT
BATMAN--WHO
AM I?





BATMAN



IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AS EVERYTHING THAT **BATMAN** TOOK FOR GRANTED SUDDENLY SEEMED A LIE--SOMETHING HE IMAGINED! INDEED, EVEN **DICK GRAYSON**, WHO IS REALLY **ROBIN**, DENIED KNOWING **BATMAN'S** EXISTENCE! THUS, THE MAN WEARING THE **BATMAN** COSTUME SOON HAD TO ASK HIMSELF THE TERRIBLE QUESTION...



AM I REALLY BATMAN?



DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DICK? I'M **BRUCE WAYNE... BATMAN!**

NO! YOU'RE NOT THE **REAL** **BRUCE WAYNE**-- AND THE **REAL** **BRUCE WAYNE** IS **NOT** **BATMAN!**

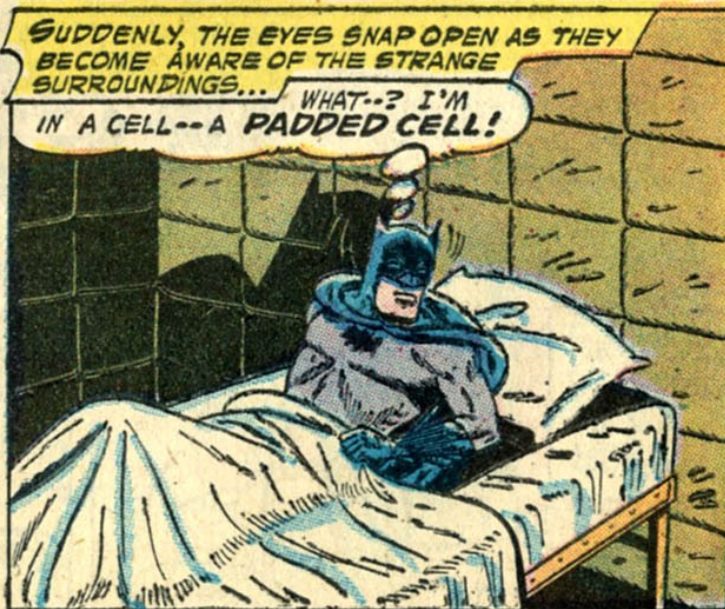
A CAPED FIGURE AWAKENS FROM SLEEP, STIRS LISTLESSLY...

FUNNY-- I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL TODAY... DON'T EVEN WANT TO GET UP!



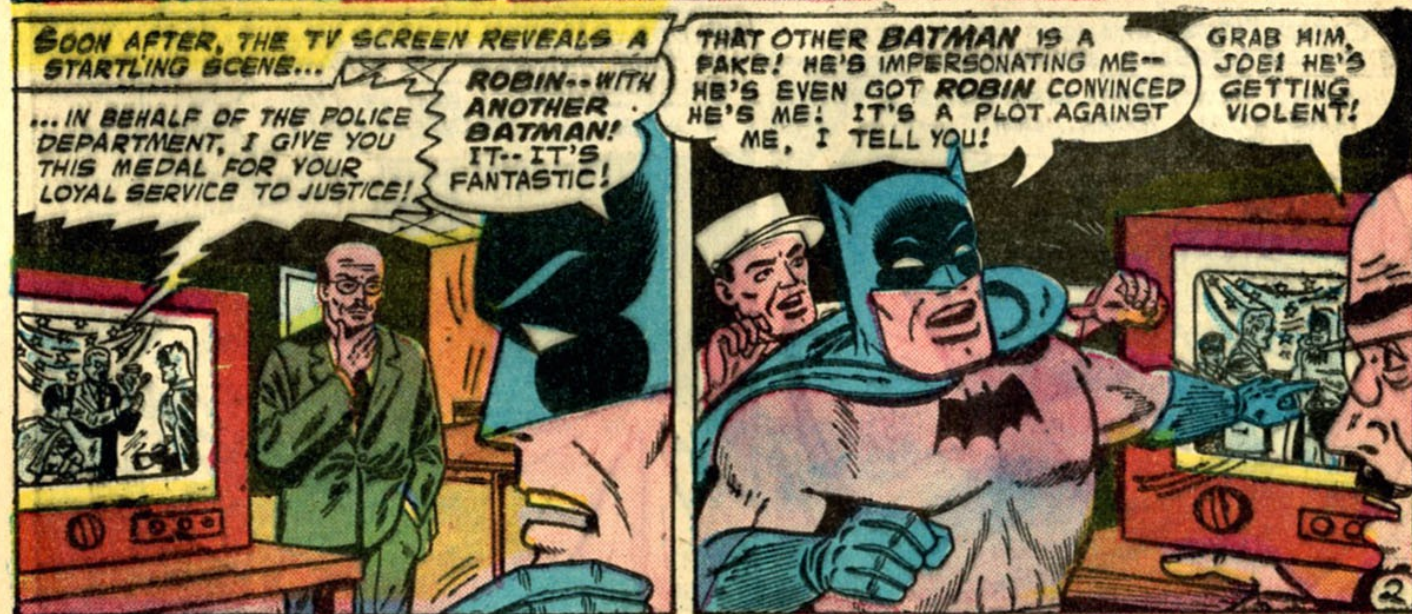
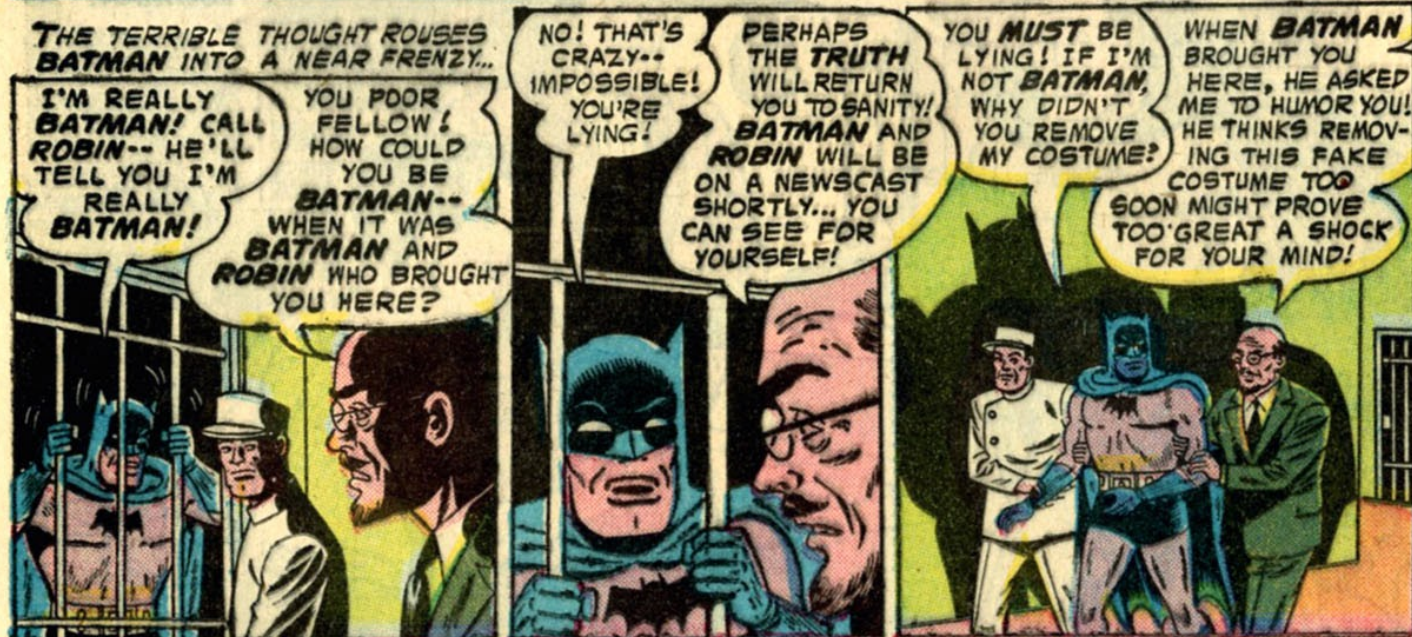
SUDDENLY, THE EYES SNAP OPEN AS THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE STRANGE SURROUNDINGS...

WHAT--? I'M IN A CELL-- A **PADDLED CELL!**





BATMAN





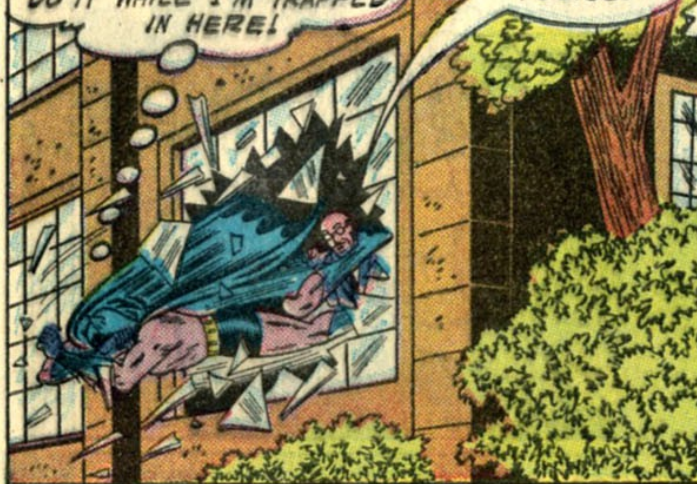
BATMAN



ONE THOUGHT DRIVES **BATMAN** ONWARD...
ESCAPE...

I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY
IDENTITY-- AND I CAN'T
DO IT WHILE I'M TRAPPED
IN HERE!

JOE! HE'S GETTING
AWAY! PHONE THE
POLICE!



THUS DOES **BATMAN**, WHO HAS HUNTED
HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS, FIND HIMSELF
A HUNTED MAN!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT
FOR AN INMATE WHO
BELIEVES HE IS
BATMAN!

NOW I'M THE ONE
HIDING FROM THE
POLICE! I'LL NEVER
CONVINCE ANYONE I'M
THE REAL **BATMAN**--
NOT WHILE I'M BEING
IMPERSONATED!



HOW COULD ALL THIS HAVE HAPPENED? THE
LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS CAPTURING
THAT RENEGADE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR
MILO... BUT THAT'S **ALL** I REMEMBER!
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER
THAT?

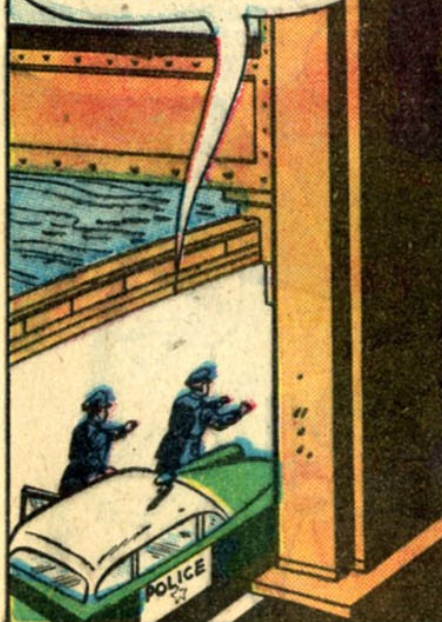


WHERE CAN I GO NOW? HOME?... TO THE WAYNE
MANSION? OF COURSE... I'M REALLY BRUCE
WAYNE... AND **ROBIN** IS REALLY DICK GRAYSON,
MY WARD! ONCE I UNMASK MYSELF, DICK WILL
KNOW THE TRUTH!

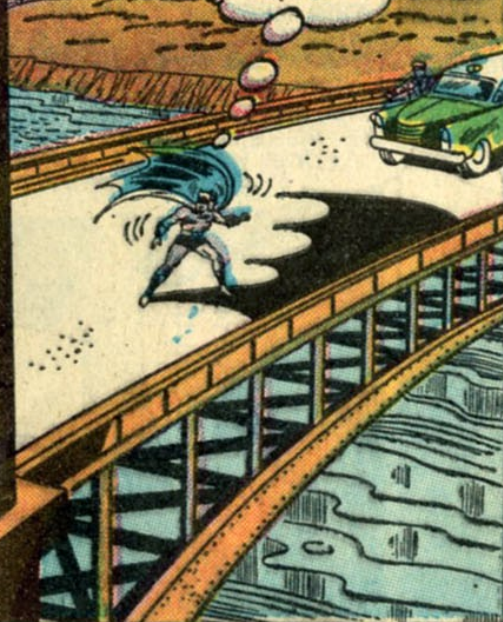


BUT THE WAY HOME IS A PATH OF CONSTANT PERIL...

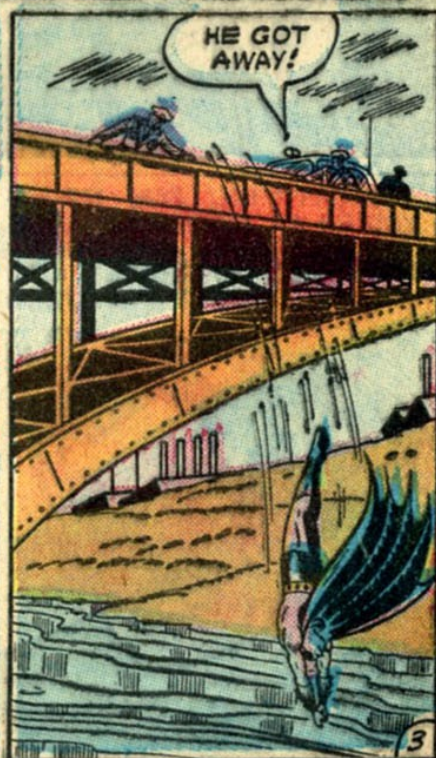
THERE HE IS--THE
MADMAN WHO THINKS
HE'S **BATMAN!**



COMING AT ME FROM BOTH
SIDES! ONLY ONE THING
TO DO...



HE GOT
AWAY!





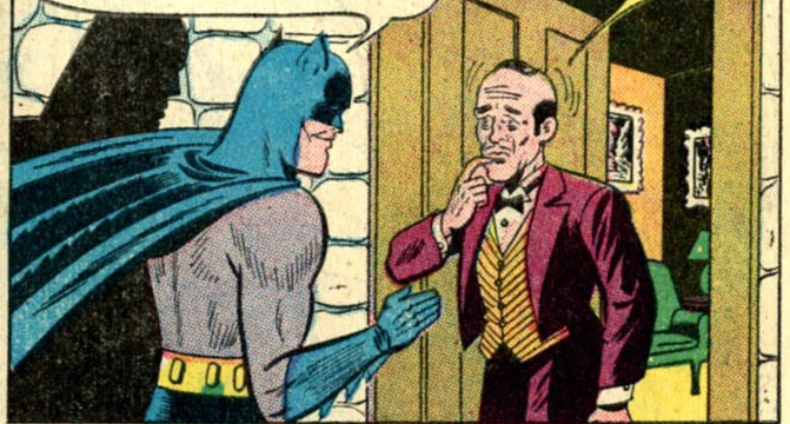
BATMAN



LATER, AS **BATMAN** APPROACHES THE WAYNE MANSION... MUST MAKE SURE THE POLICE HAVEN'T TRAILED ME HERE... OTHERWISE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT THE SECRET IDENTITY OF **BATMAN** IS **BRUCE WAYNE**!



AND SO AT LAST, THE HUNTED MAN REACHES HIS REFUGE... ALFRED! IT'S GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN! WHERE'S DICK? IS HE DOWN IN THE **BAT-CAVE**? EH--? WHERE?



SWIFTLY, **BATMAN** RUSHES PAST THE BUTLER AND HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO DISCOVER...

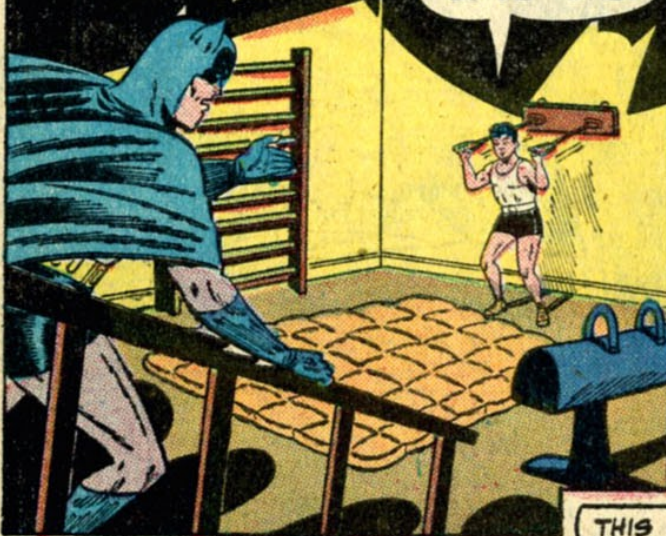
MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER SHOCK GREETES **BATMAN** AS A THIRD FIGURE DESCENDS...

THE **BAT-CAVE**... IT'S GONE! DICK-- WHERE'S THE **BAT-CAVE**?

¿GASPÉ WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO **BAT-CAVE** HERE!

GREAT SCOTT! WHO-- WHO ARE YOU?

BRUCE WAYNE, OF COURSE!

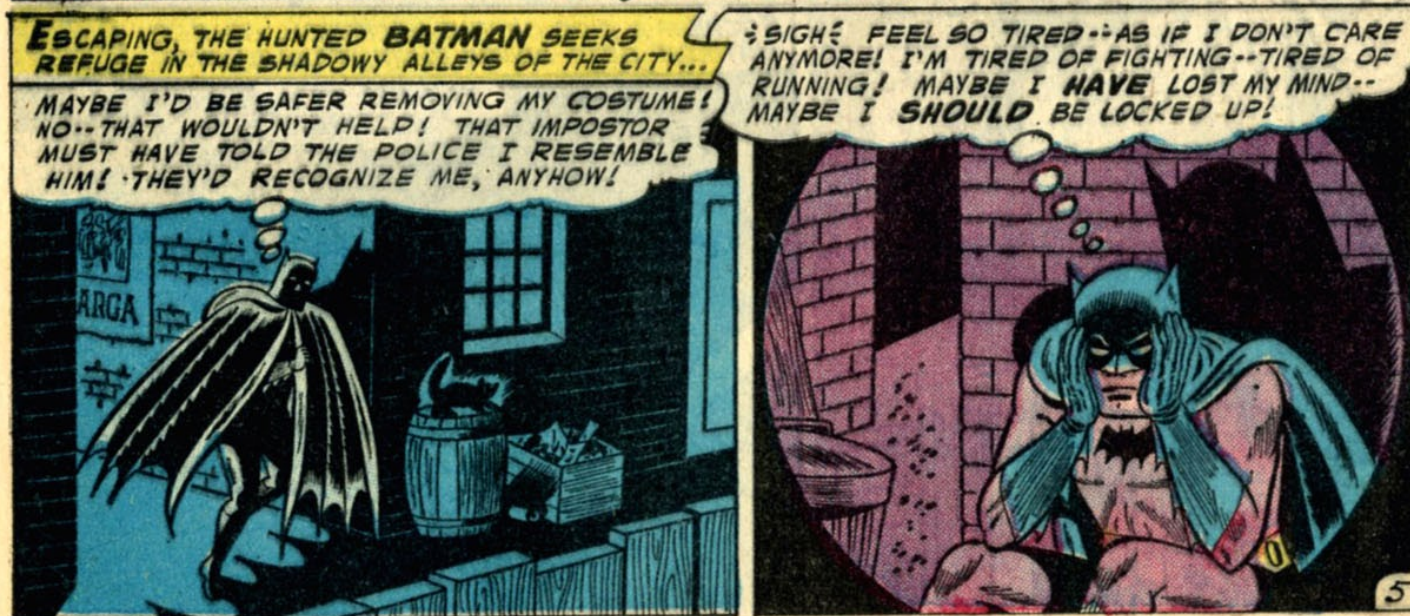
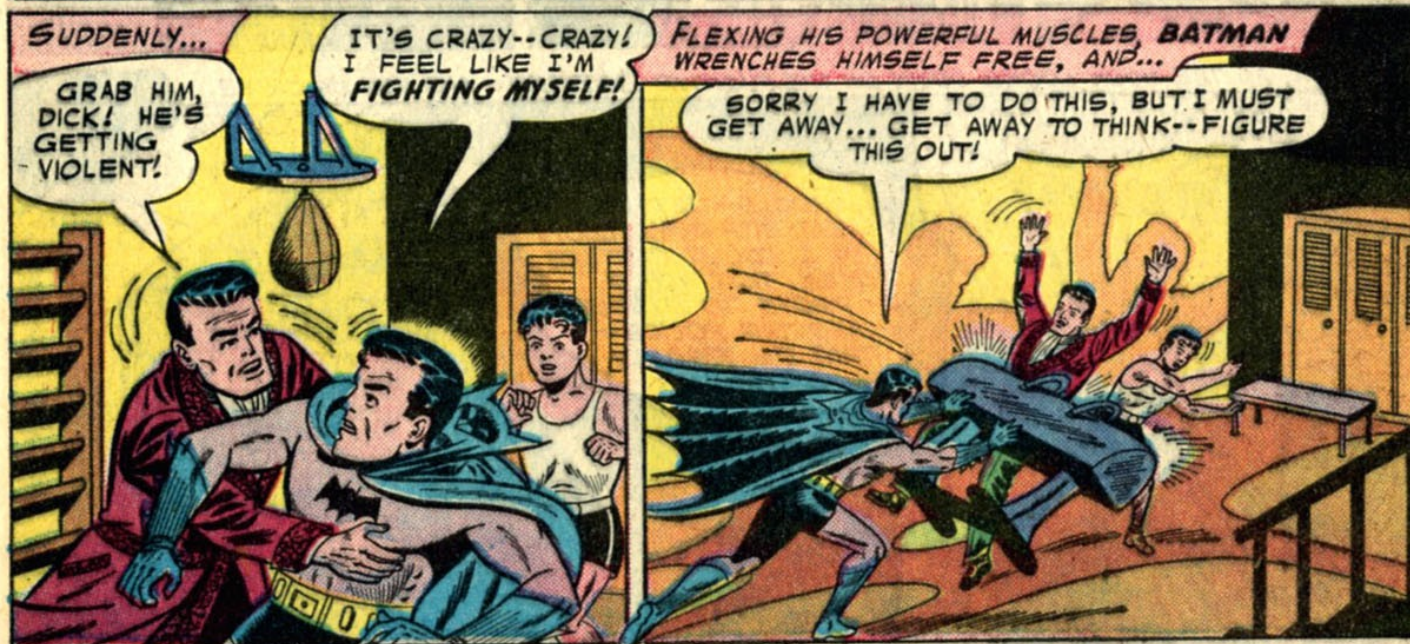
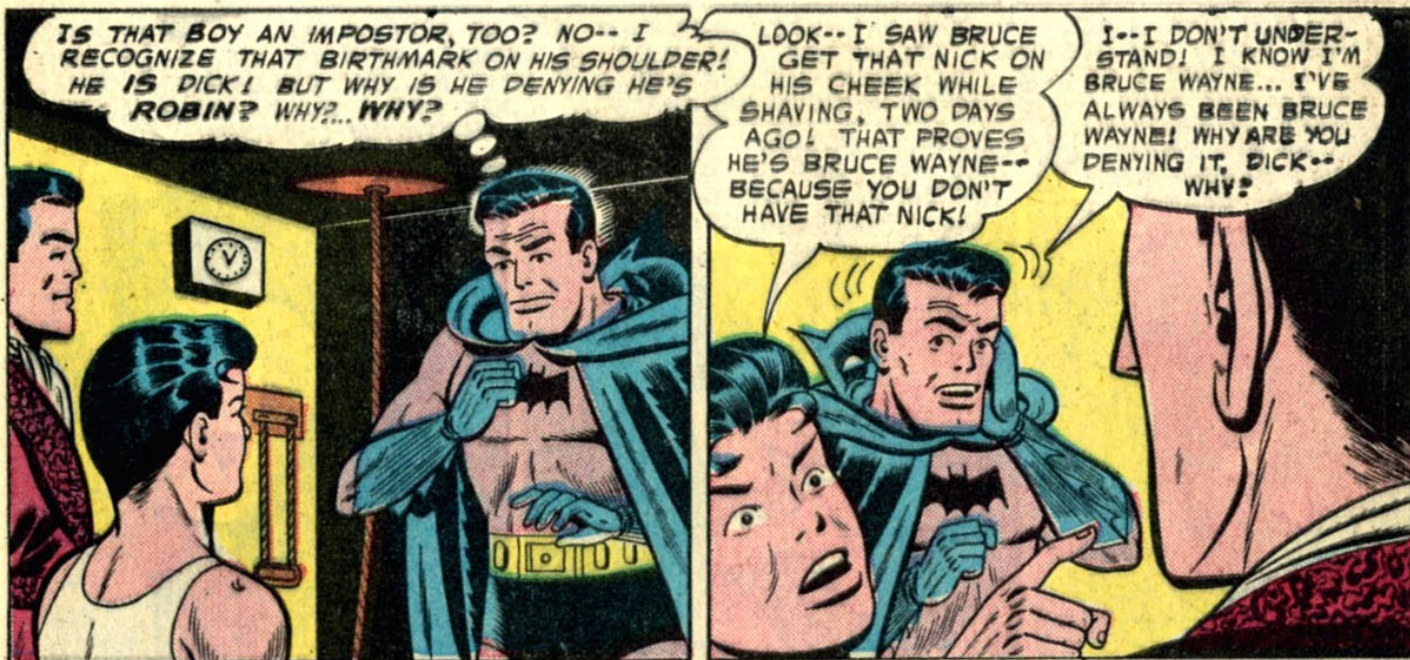


YOU CAN'T BE! I'M **BRUCE WAYNE**! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR! DICK, LOOK AT MY FACE! HE'S TRICKED YOU! YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY-- YOU KNOW I'M **BATMAN**!

THIS MUST BE THAT ESCAPED MADMAN! POOR FELLOW... HE'S READ SO MUCH ABOUT **BATMAN** THAT HE FINALLY IMAGINED HE IS **BATMAN**! AND, BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES ME, HE THINKS **BRUCE WAYNE** IS **BATMAN'S** SECRET IDENTITY!

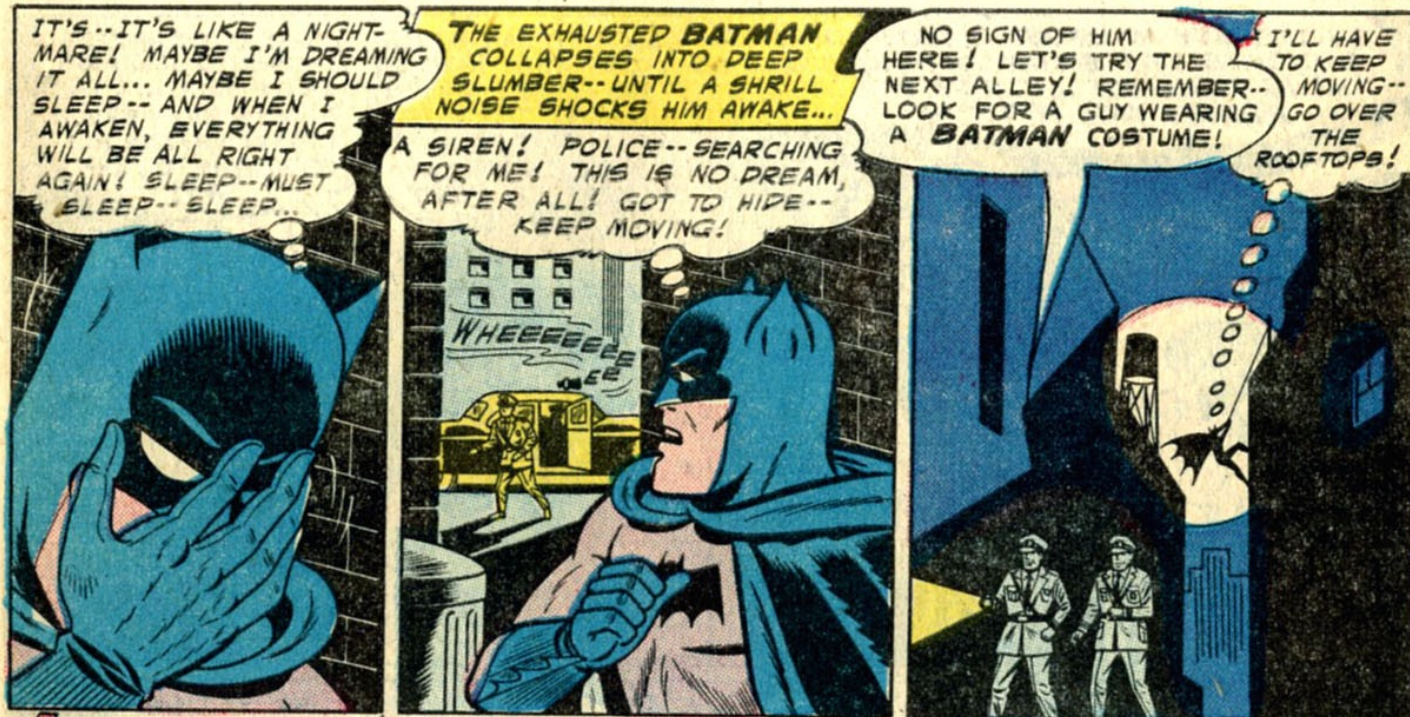
TCH-TCH... AND HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M **ROBIN**!



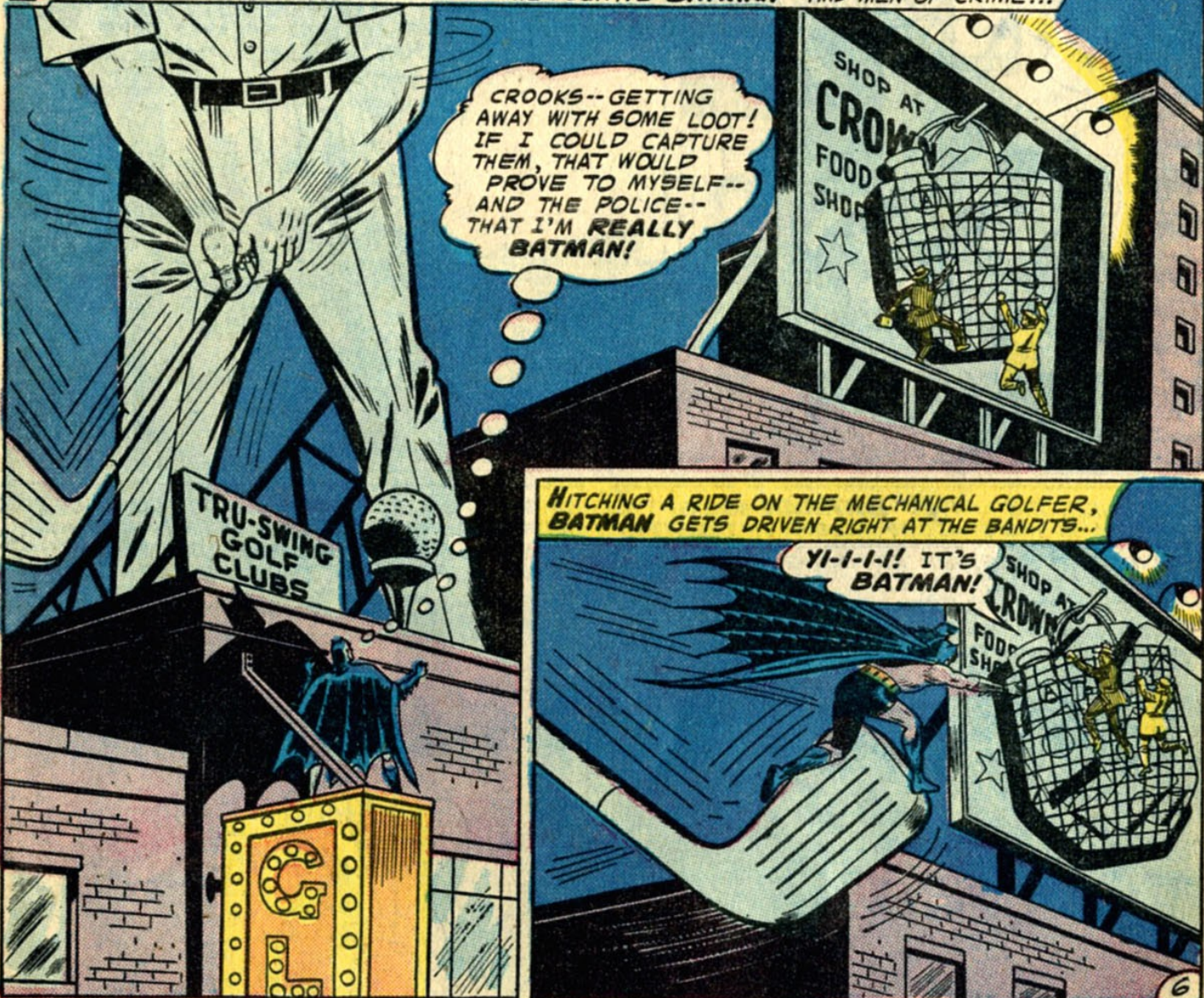




BATMAN



LATER, AS THE MOON LOOKS DOWN ON THE FUGITIVE **BATMAN**-- AND MEN OF CRIME...





BATMAN

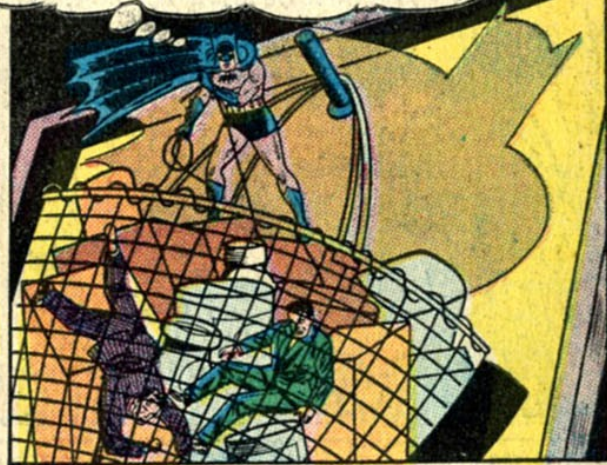
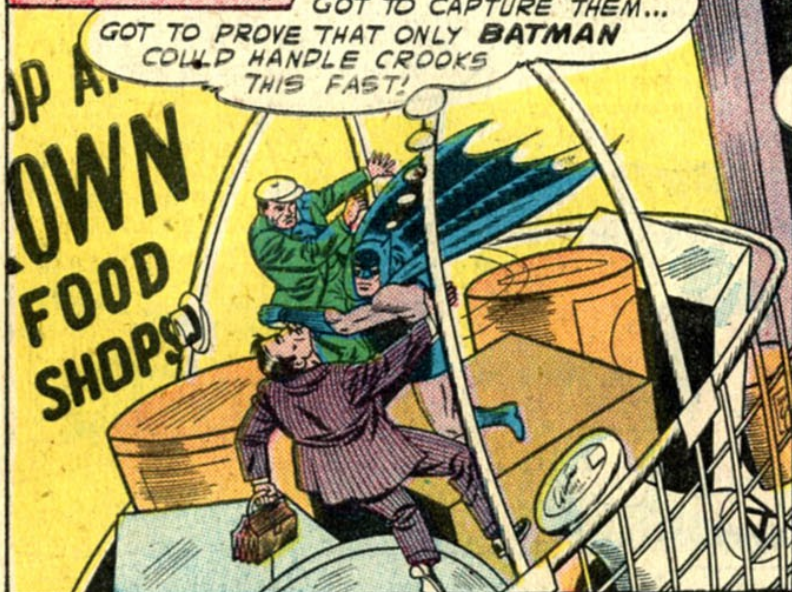


LANDING ON THE ADVERTISING SIGN'S SHOPPING BAG, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER FIGHTS WITH A FURY BORN OF DESPERATION...

PITCHING HIS UNCONSCIOUS FOE INTO THE COLOSSAL SHOPPING BAG, **BATMAN** PULLS ON THE DRAWSTRING, AND...

GOT TO CAPTURE THEM...
GOT TO PROVE THAT ONLY **BATMAN** COULD HANDLE CROOKS THIS FAST!

WHEN THE CROOKS TELL HOW I CAPTURED THEM, THE POLICE MIGHT REALIZE I'VE BEEN TELLING THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

MY IMPERSONATOR--AND **ROBIN**! THEY'VE COME TO INVESTIGATE THE ROBBERY! HMM--A THOUGHT SUDDENLY OCCURS TO ME! I WONDER...

LATER, WHEN THE **BATMOBILE** RETURNS TO THE **BAT-CAVE**, A FIGURE WARILY OPENS THE TRUNK...

THEY DIDN'T KNOW I CLIMBED IN HERE WHILE THEY WERE CHECKING ON THAT ROBBERY! SO, I'M NOT CRAZY AFTER ALL! THE **BAT-CAVE** WAS HERE ALL THE TIME--FORMED INTO A "BASEMENT" BY PROP WALLS!

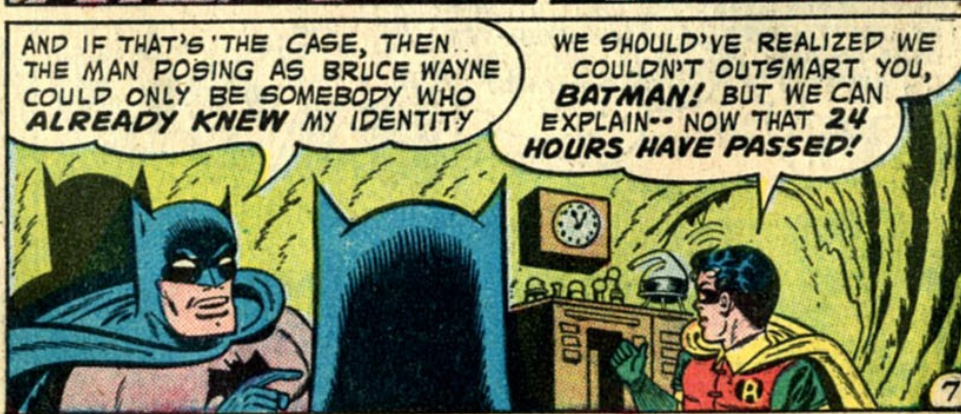
ABRUPTLY...

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS--START EXPLAINING! THE POLICE WEREN'T SEARCHING FOR A MAN WHO RESEMBLED BRUCE WAYNE--WHICH MEANS YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM! WHY?...BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO **PROTECT BATMAN'S IDENTITY!**



AND IF THAT'S 'THE CASE, THEN THE MAN POSING AS BRUCE WAYNE COULD ONLY BE SOMEBODY WHO **ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY**

WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED WE COULDN'T OUTSMART YOU, **BATMAN!** BUT WE CAN EXPLAIN--NOW THAT **24 HOURS HAVE PASSED!**





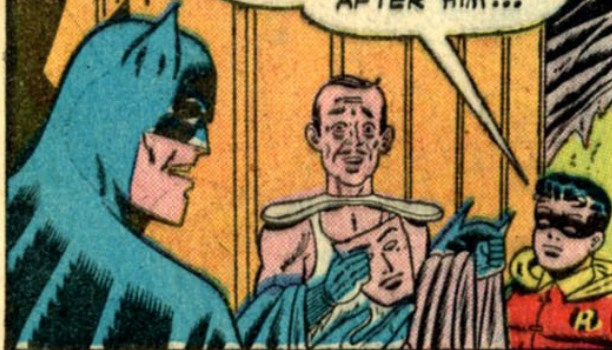
BATMAN



SWIFTLY, THE IMPOSTOR REMOVES PADDED GARB AND MAKEUP, TO REVEAL...

ALFRED--JUST AS I FIGURED! YOU WERE MY IMPERSONATOR!

IT ALL BEGAN LAST NIGHT, **BATMAN**, WHEN YOU AND I WERE AFTER PROFESSOR MILO! YOU MADE ME WAIT OUTSIDE HIS HIDEOUT, IN CASE HE SNEAKED OUT--WHILE YOU RUSHED IN AFTER HIM...



"WHEN YOU BROUGHT MILO OUT, YOU SUDDENLY KEELED OVER..."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH **BATMAN**? HE SEEMS TO BE IN A COMA!

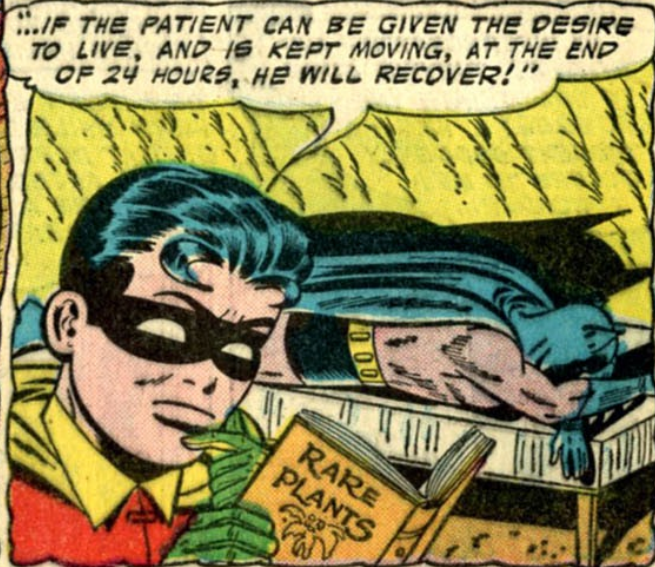
HA, HA... I'VE BEATEN **BATMAN** AT LAST! WHEN HE CHARGED INTO MY LABORATORY, HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FILLED WITH A GAS MADE FROM A RARE AMAZON PLANT! IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE I WAS WEARING NOSE FILTERS...



THE GAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT ON THE PERSON INHALING IT... THE PERSON **LOSES THE DESIRE TO LIVE!** HE LIES ABOUT LISTLESSLY, REFUSING TO EAT, AND EVENTUALLY HE DIES!
HA, HA, HA!

"I QUICKLY DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE PLANT, AND LEARNED ONE FACT..."

"...IF THE PATIENT CAN BE GIVEN THE DESIRE TO LIVE, AND IS KEPT MOVING, AT THE END OF 24 HOURS, HE WILL RECOVER!"



"SO I WENT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A PLAN..."

...YOU SEE, WE MUST GIVE **BATMAN** A PURPOSE FOR LIVING, A PROBLEM TO SOLVE--A PROBLEM SO SHOCKING THAT HE WON'T REST UNTIL HE HAS THE ANSWER!

ALL RIGHT, **ROBIN**... THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE AT THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WILL COOPERATE! WE ALL WANT TO SEE **BATMAN** LIVE!

SO I GOT ALFRED TO IMPERSONATE YOU, AS **BATMAN** AND BRUCE WAYNE--AND THE REST YOU KNOW! IT WAS A DRASTIC MOVE--BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

I AGREE... IT CERTAINLY KEPT MY BRAIN AWAKE, AND KEPT ME ON THE MOVE!

BUT--IT'S ALL OVER NOW! I CAN GO TO SLEEP AND WAKE UP TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!

YES... AND THAT **BATMAN** WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB--AS USUAL!





10¢

FEB.
NO. 113



BATMAN

Featuring
**"BATMAN-
SUPERMAN
of PLANET X!"**

THEIR RAY
GUNS CAN'T HARM
ME--ON THIS
PLANET I'M A
**SUPER-
BATMAN!**





BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

BOB
KANE



HE'S FAR FASTER THAN A SPEEDING ATOMIC-JET! WITH EASE, HE LEAPS OVER TOWERING BUILDINGS! RAY-BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF HIS CHEST! IS IT A BIRD? A PLANE? NO--IT'S **BATMAN!** AND THIS TIME, THERE'S A HOST OF SURPRISES FOR THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER OF GOTHAM CITY, AS HE EMBARKS UPON AN AMAZING OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD ADVENTURE TO BECOME...

BATMAN--
THE
SUPERMAN
OF
PLANET X!

AT HIS MANSION, WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE ARISES IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT-- AND, WHILE DONNING A FAMILIAR COSTUME, STARES ODDLY AT HIS SLEEPING WARD, DICK GRAYSON...



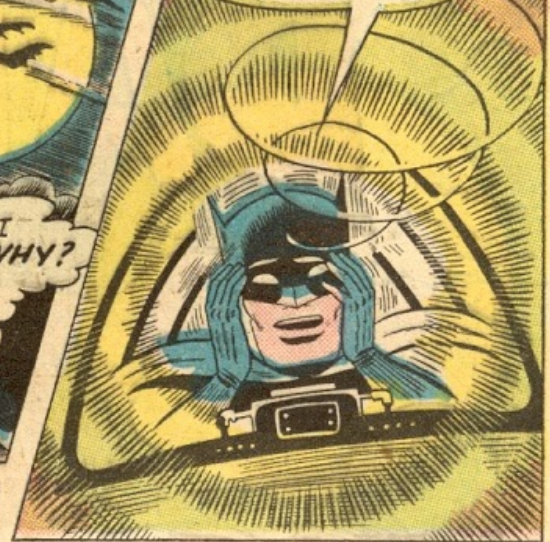
STRANGE... DICK AND I ALWAYS GO OUT TOGETHER-- AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHY AM I GOING ALONE TONIGHT?

SOON, IN THE SLEEK BAT-PLANE...



WHERE AM I GOING... AND WHY? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO VAGUE...

S-SOMETHING'S WRONG! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? MY HEAD'S SPINNING...



AND, JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT CAME, THE SPINNING SENSATION DEPARTS...

WHERE AM I? I'M NO LONGER IN THE BAT-PLANE...

WELCOME, BATMAN, TO THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH! I HAVE MASTERED YOUR LANGUAGE-- SO WE MAY TALK!



STUNNED, THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER STARES AT A STRANGE FIGURE-- AN UNEARTHLY LIKENESS OF HIMSELF!

THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH?

YES--LOCATED IN A STAR SYSTEM FAR FROM YOURS! I DOUBT IF YOUR ASTRONOMERS KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE!



I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY TELEPORTATION-- BODILY TRANSMISSION THROUGH SPACE! MY WORLD NEEDS YOU!

BUT THAT COSTUME YOU WEAR... YOU LOOK LIKE A FUTURISTIC VERSION OF ME!



TRUE... AND THAT'S BECAUSE I'M THE BATMAN OF ZUR-EN-ARRH! THROUGH A POWERFUL TELESCOPE, I'VE OBSERVED YOUR EVERY ACTION! IT INSPIRED ME TO PLAY THE SAME ROLE HERE!

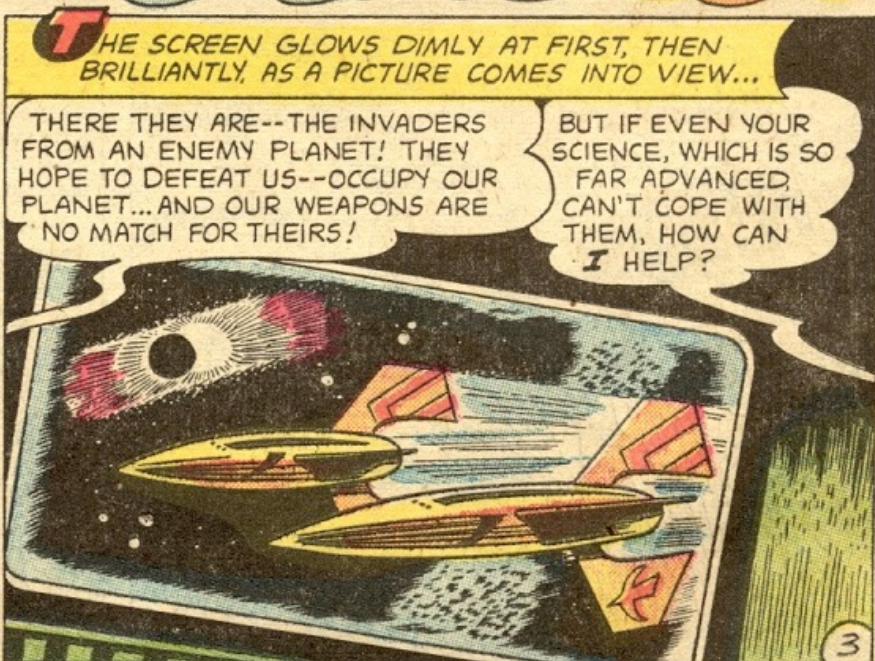
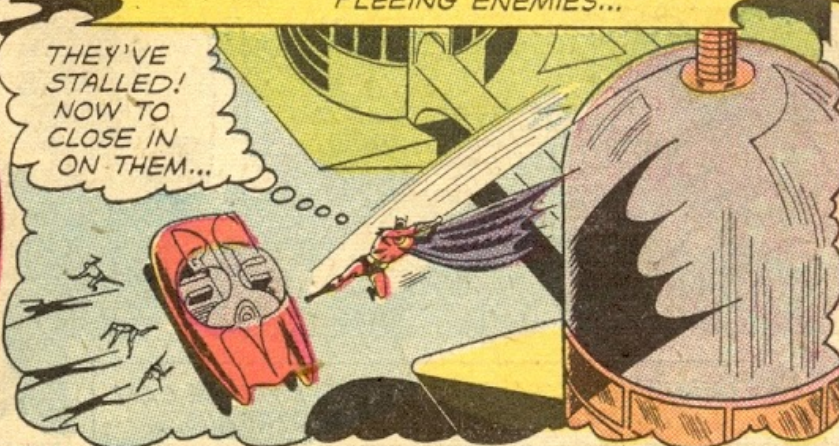
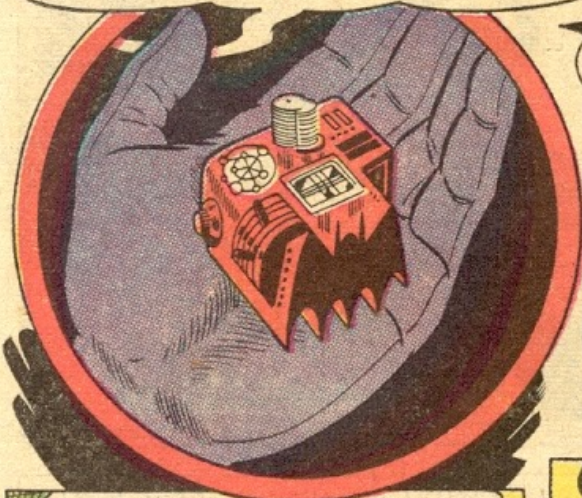




AND HERE IS THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECT IN MY UTILITY BELT... THE **BAT-RADIA!** IT ISSUES ELECTRONIC MOLECULES THAT CAUSE CONTROLLED DISTURBANCES IN THE ATMOSPHERE!



"WITH IT, I AM ABLE TO 'JAM' ATMOSPHERIC MOLECULES--EVEN RENDER USELESS THE MOTORS OF JET-CARS USED BY FLEEING ENEMIES..."



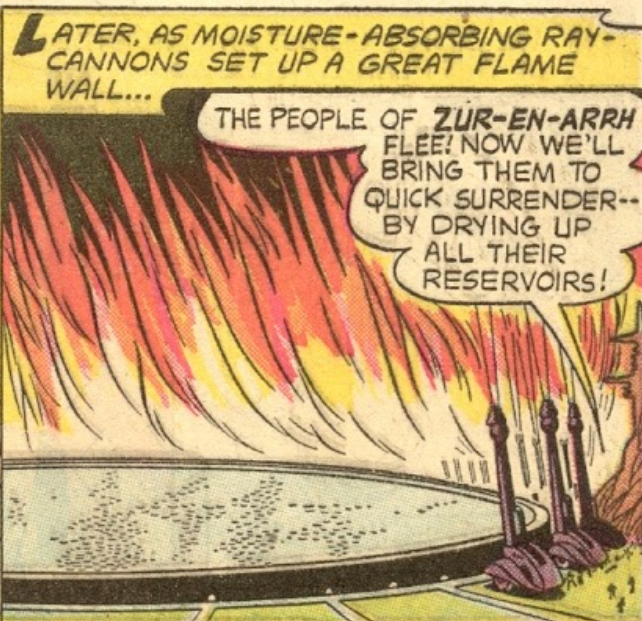


REQUESTED TO LEAP AS HIGH AS HE CAN, **BATMAN** SAILS FAR INTO THE AIR...





IT WOULD BE FOLLY FOR MY PEOPLE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH SUPERIOR WEAPONS! THEY'RE EVACUATING THE CITY!



LATER, AS MOISTURE-ABSORBING RAY-CANNONS SET UP A GREAT FLAME WALL...

THE PEOPLE OF ZUR-EN-ARRH FLEE! NOW WE'LL BRING THEM TO QUICK SURRENDER-- BY DRYING UP ALL THEIR RESERVOIRS!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, AN INCREDIBLE FIGURE SOARS HIGH IN THE AIR, ABOVE THE RAY-BLASTS...

SCORNFUL OF THE FIERY RAYS, THE CAPED FIGURE SMASHES RIGHT INTO THE VERY MOUTHS OF THE CANNONS...



EH--? WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS THAT?



WHAT AN EYE-OPENER IT WOULD BE FOR **SUPERMAN** TO SEE ME NOW!

FIERY NUCLEAR ORBS, CAPABLE OF DISINTEGRATING ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH, ARE UNLEASHED BY THE INVADERS...

WONDER HOW MY SUDDEN SUPER STRENGTH CAN STAND UP TO **THOSE** BABIES...?

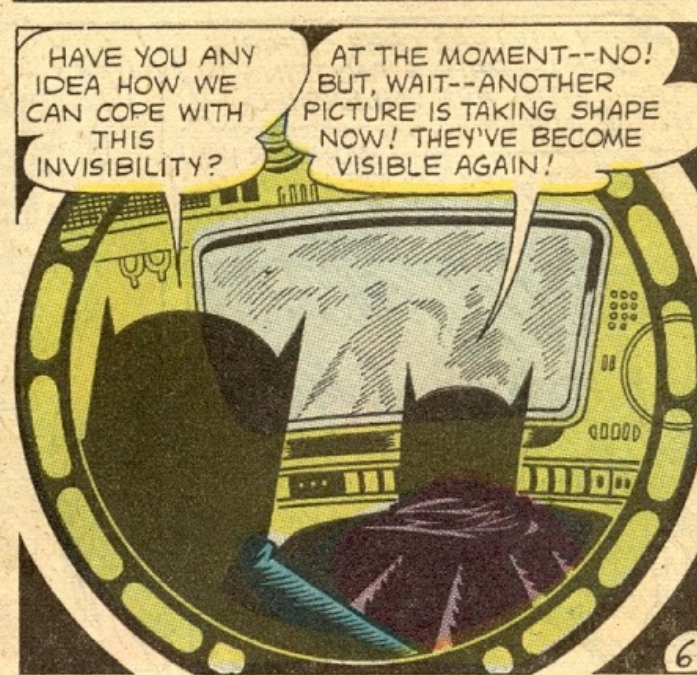
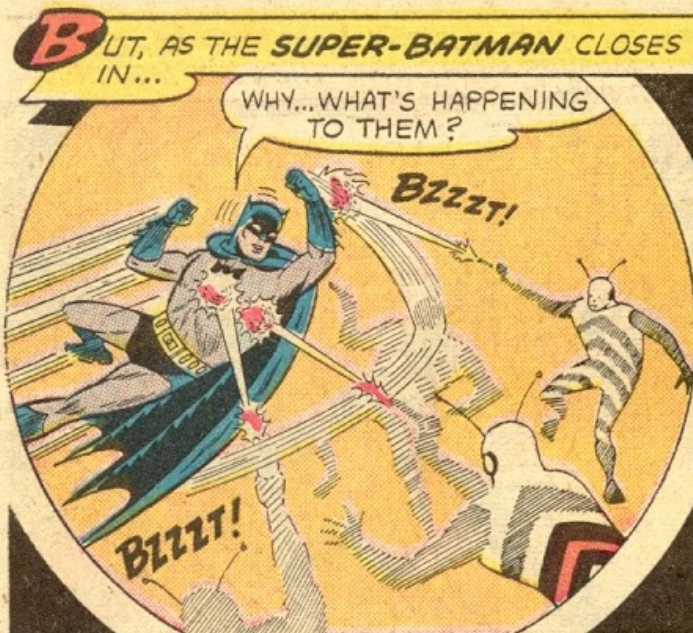
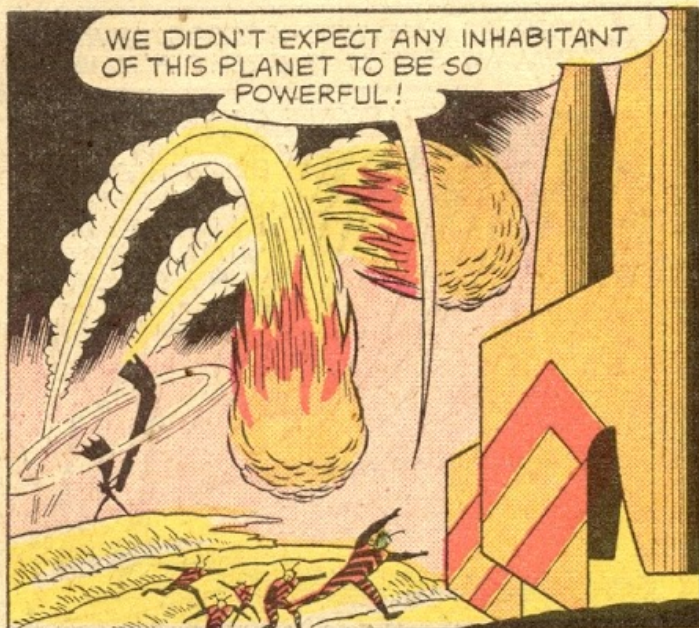


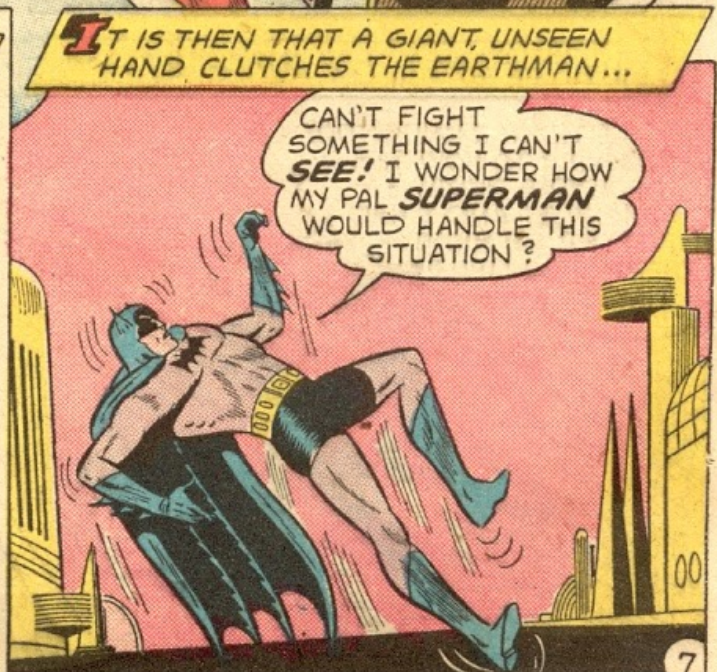
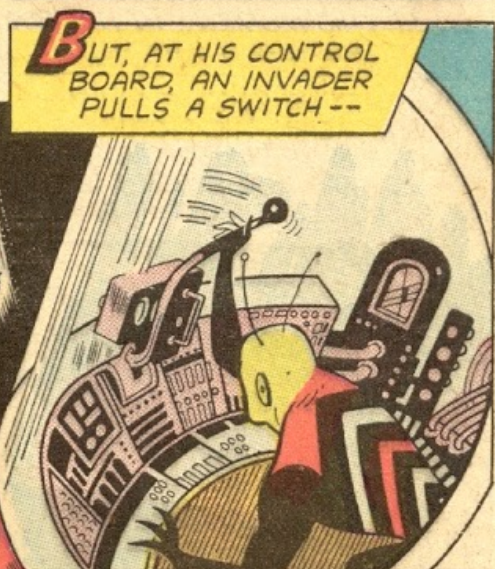
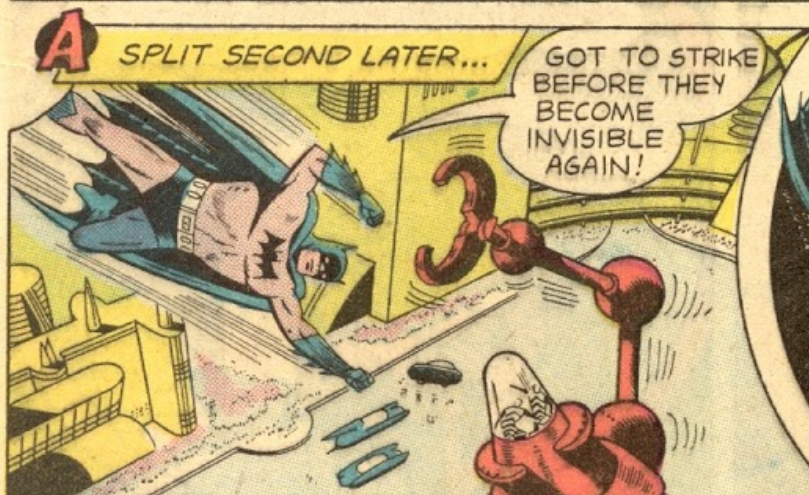
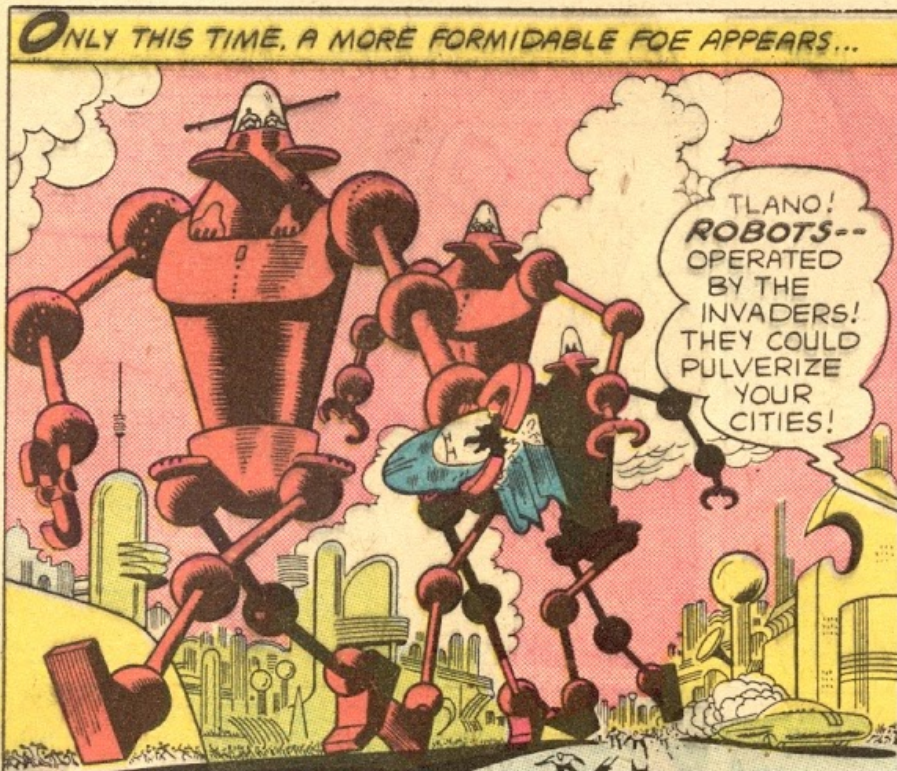
I'LL SOON FIND OUT...

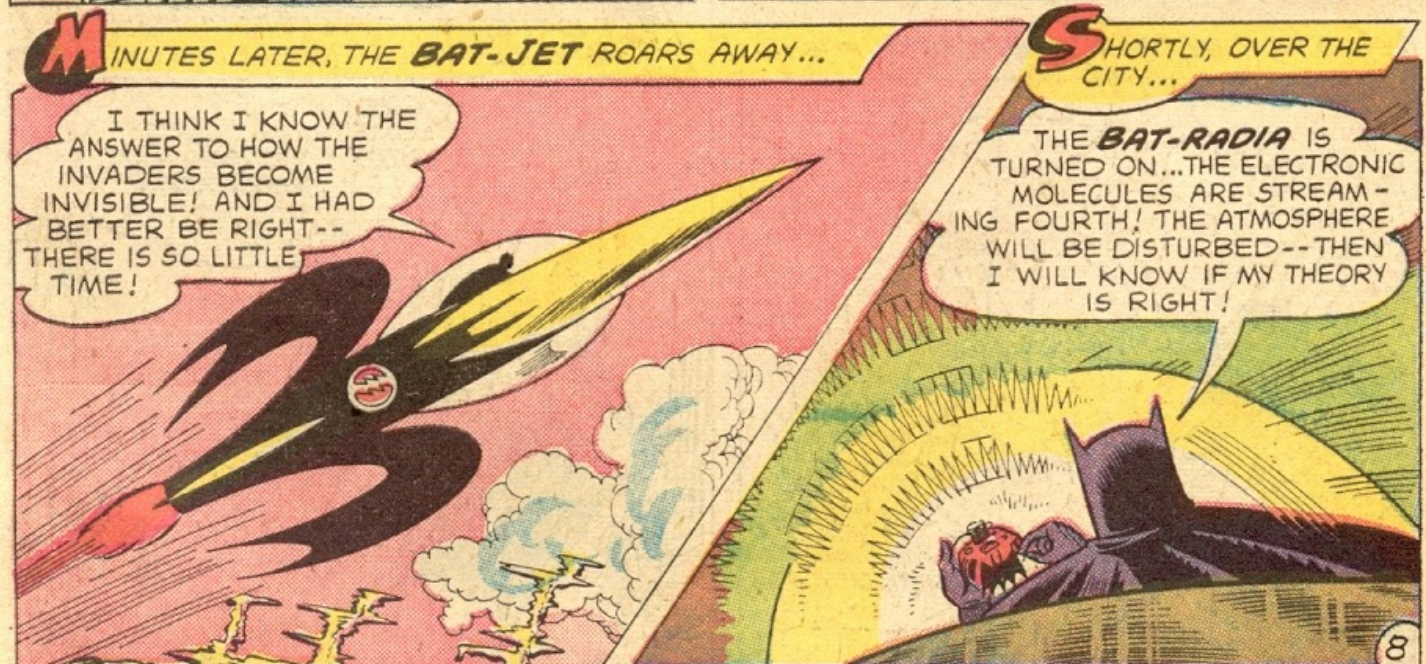
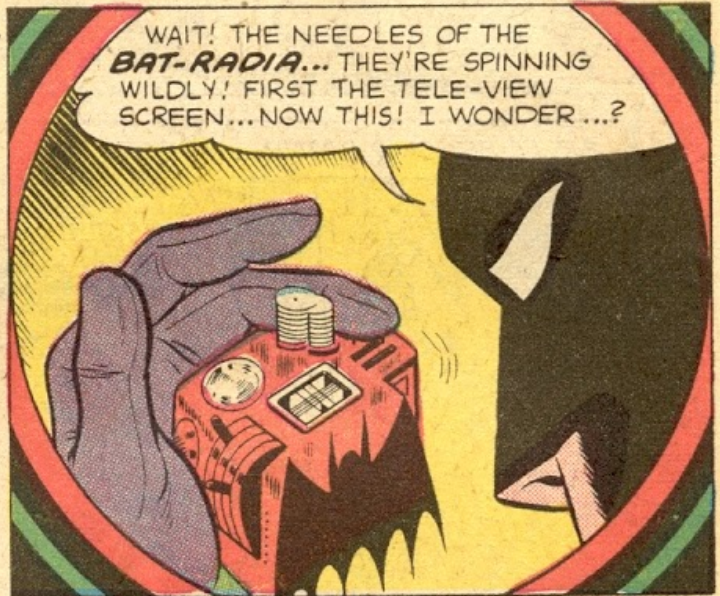
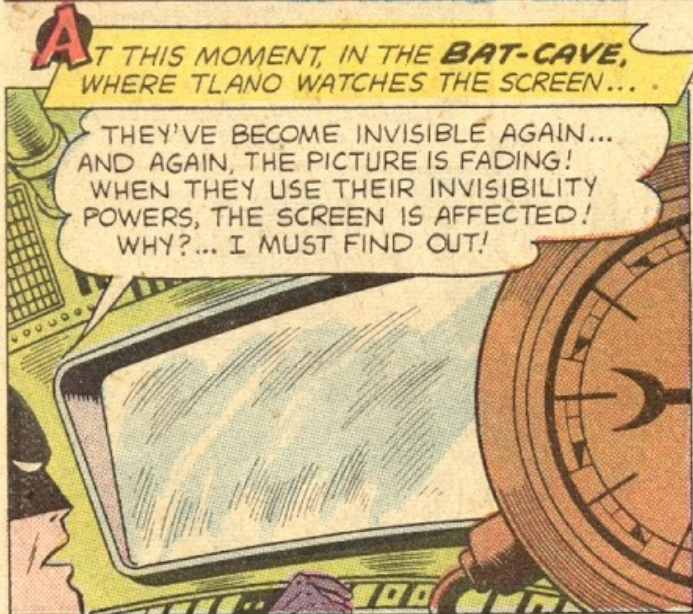


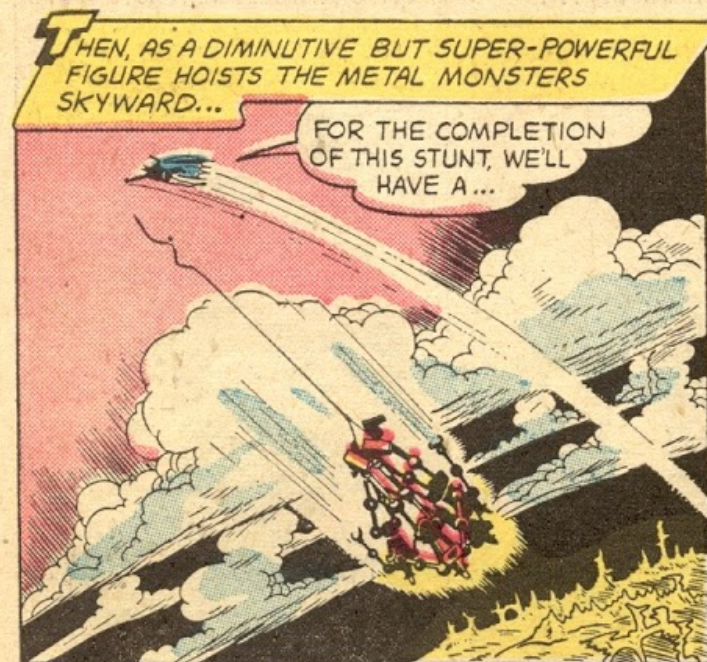
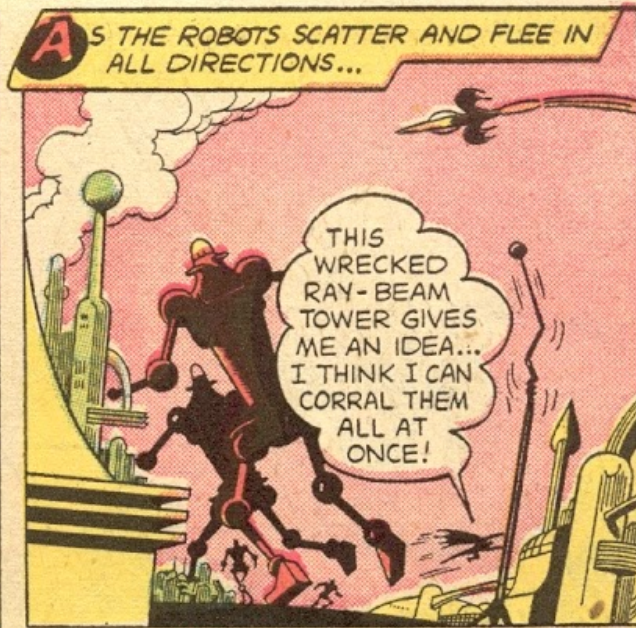
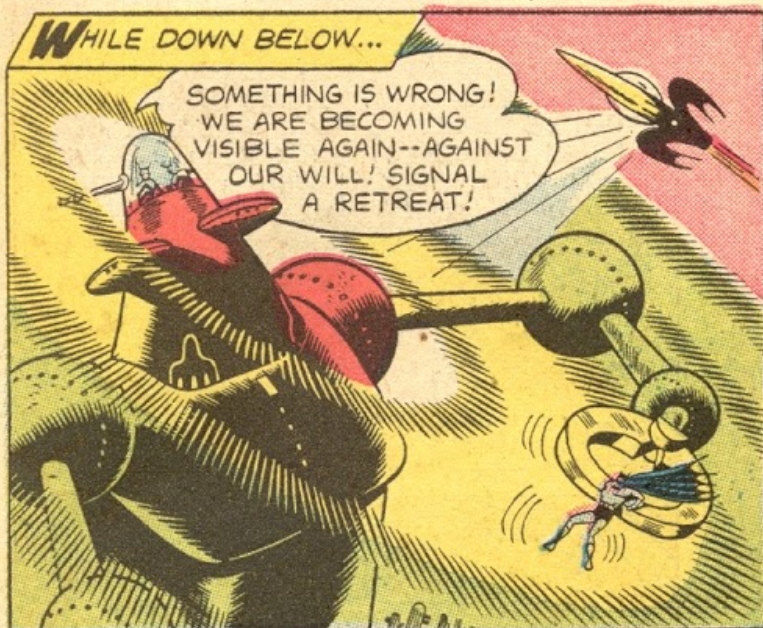
...BY PLAYING A GAME OF **SUPER-GOLF**!

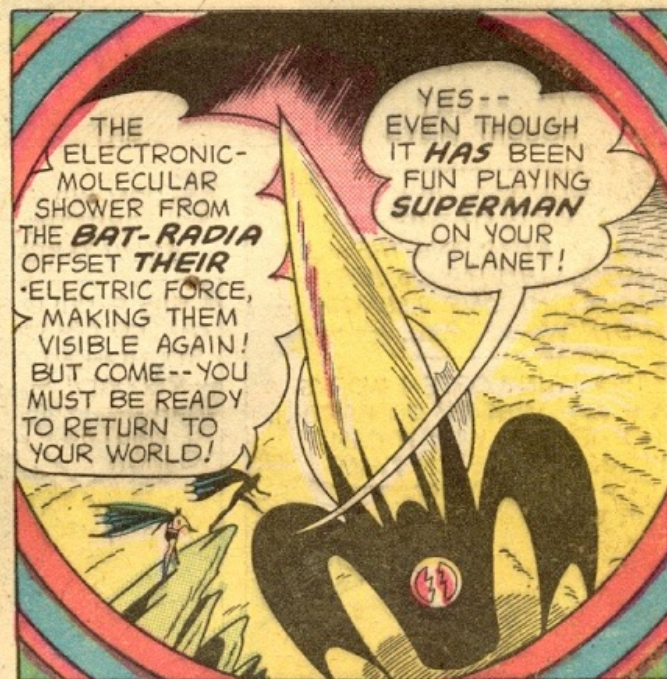
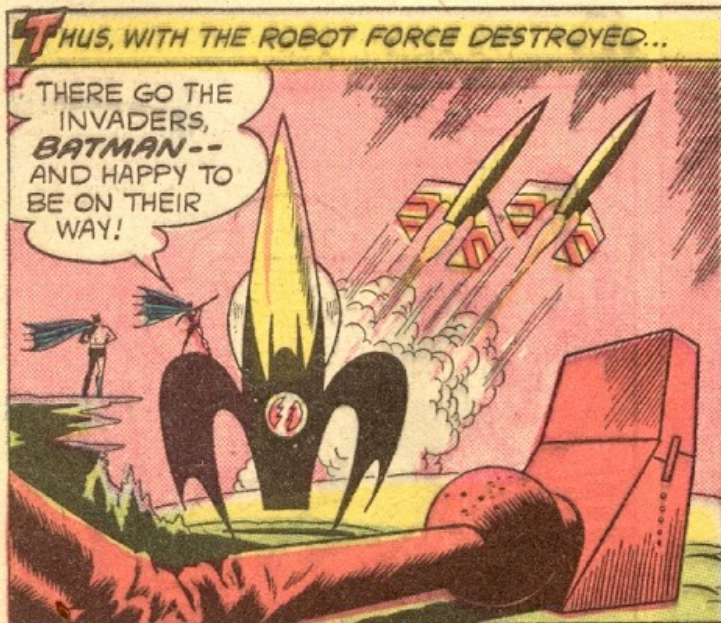
POW













10¢

MAY NO. 267



Detective COMICS

GREAT SCOTT,
BATMAN, SOMEBODY'S
BEEN PROWLING
AROUND IN THE
BAT-CAVE!

SURE, IT'S ME--
BAT-MITE! I'VE
COME TO YOUR
WORLD TO JOIN
YOUR TEAM!

**"BATMAN
MEETS
BAT-MITE!"**



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

IS HE AN ELF?... A GREMLIN?...
AN IMP OR A PIXIE? WHY DOES
HE CONSTANTLY HARASS
BATMAN AND ROBIN IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO FIGHT
CRIME? YOU'LL LEARN THE
STARTLING ANSWERS WHEN
YOU SEE HOW...

BATMAN MEETS BAT-MITE

THOSE CROOKS ARE
GIVING **BATMAN** QUITE
A BATTLE, EH, **ROBIN**?

YES,
BAT-MITE...
AND IT'S ALL
YOUR FAULT!

BOB
KANE

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ONE NIGHT, IN THE HOME OF WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

LET'S GO, DICK... TIME FOR **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO START THEIR PATROL!

RIGHT, BRUCE!



BUT, AS THE TWO DON THEIR ACTION GARB IN THE SECRET SUBTERRANEAN **BAT-CAVE**...

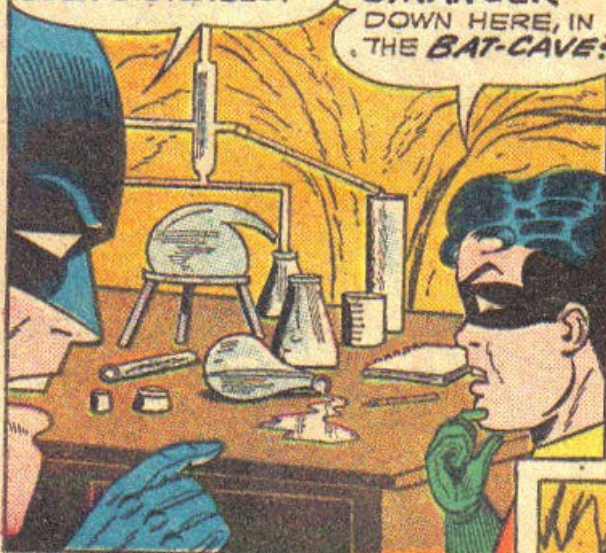
STRANGE... WHAT'S MY **UTILITY BELT** DOING ON THE FLOOR? I'M SURE I HUNG IT IN THE CLOSET!

AND MY **BELT-RADIO**... WHO OPENED IT? I ALWAYS MAKE SURE IT'S CLOSED, TO KEEP DUST OUT!



LOOK, **ROBIN**--EVEN THE EQUIPMENT ON OUR LAB TABLE HAS BEEN DISTURBED!

⚡GULP⚡ COULD THERE HAVE BEEN A **STRANGER** DOWN HERE, IN THE **BAT-CAVE**?



WHAT--? A VOICE... BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYONE!

DEAR ME--I'M SORRY! I WAS EXAMINING YOUR EQUIPMENT, AND I'M AFRAID I GOT CARELESS!



IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF VISIBLE!

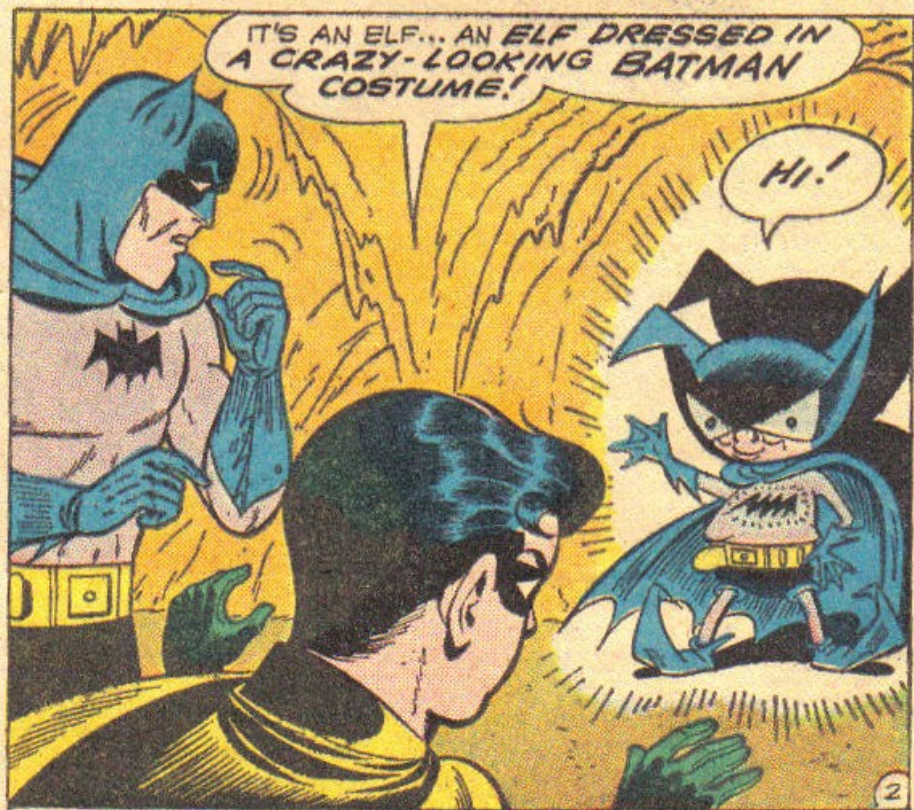
BATMAN--LOOK! AM I DREAMING--OR DO YOU SEE IT, TOO?

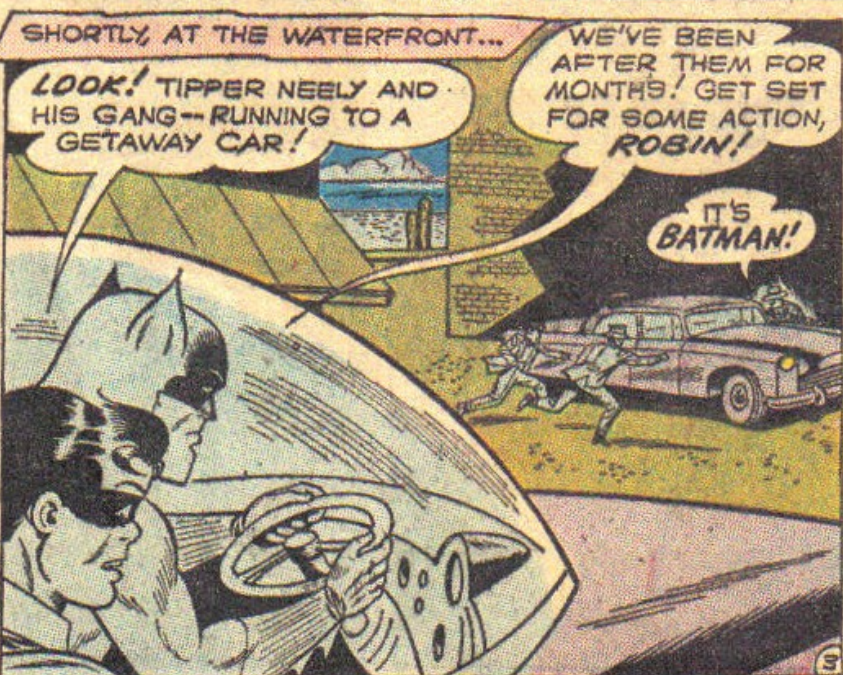
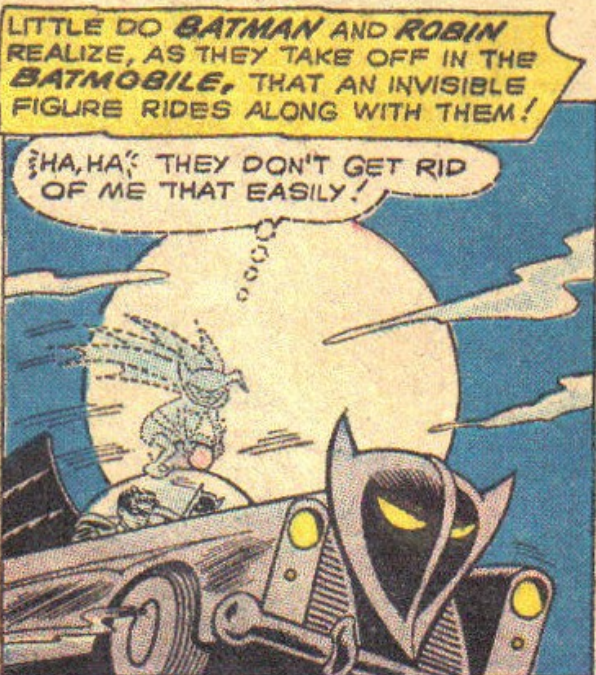
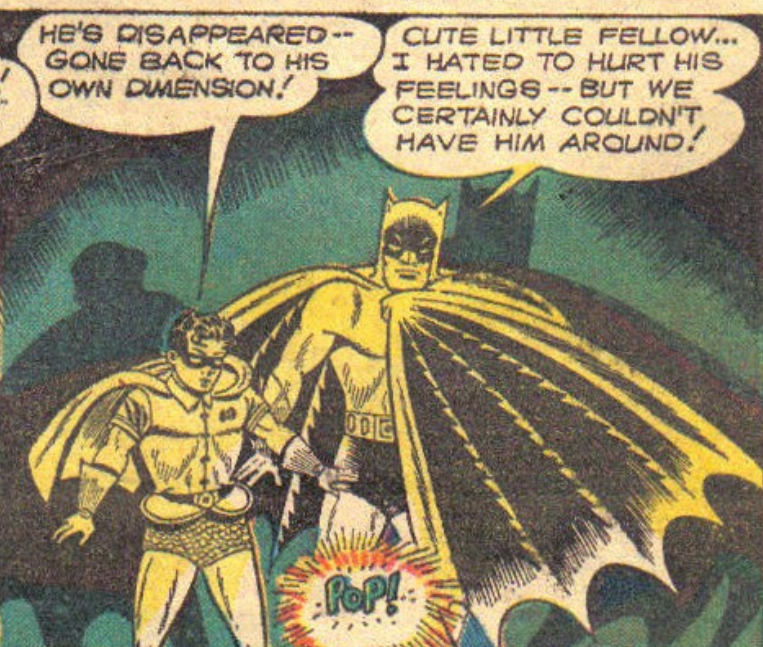
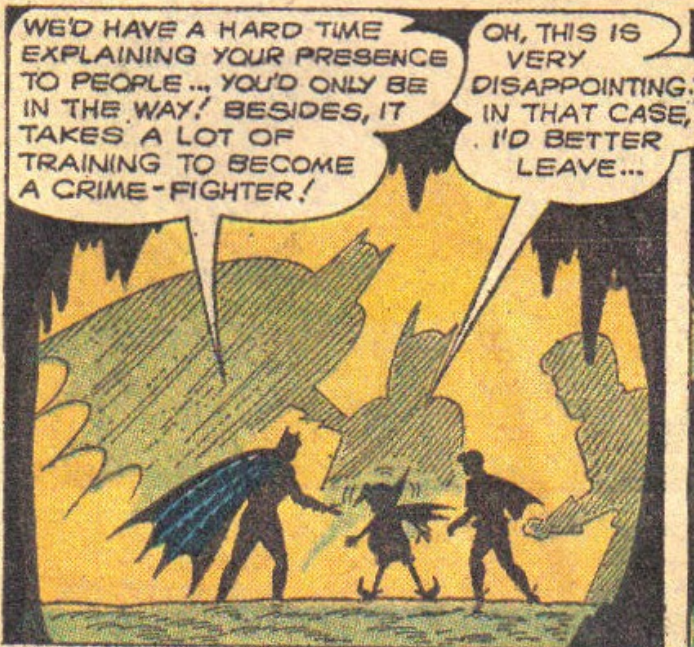
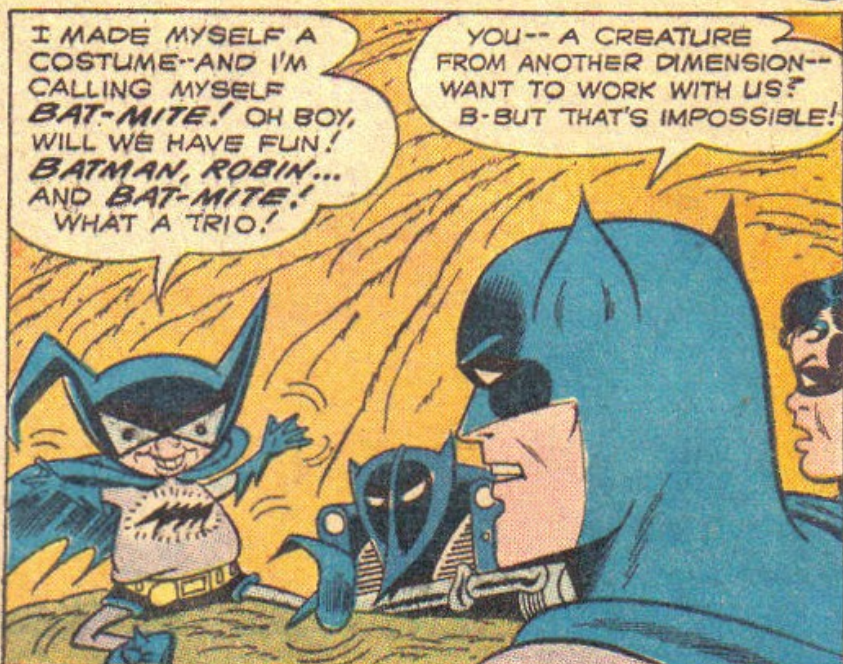
I--I'M AFRAID I DO, **ROBIN**!

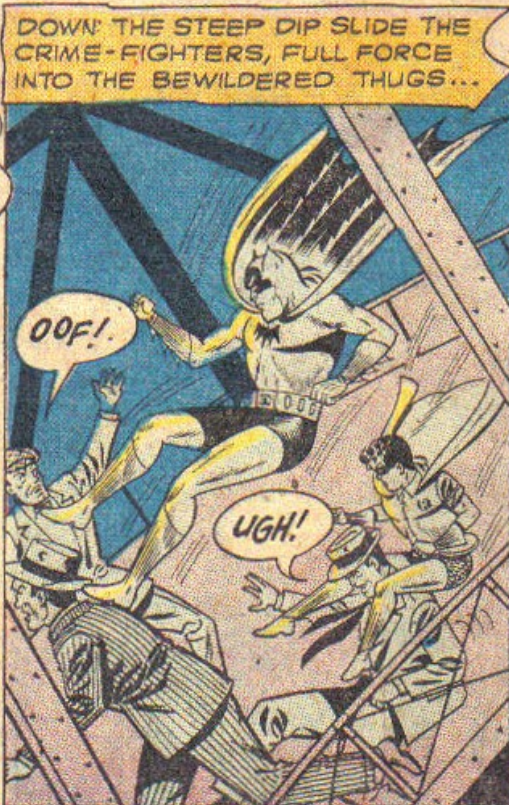
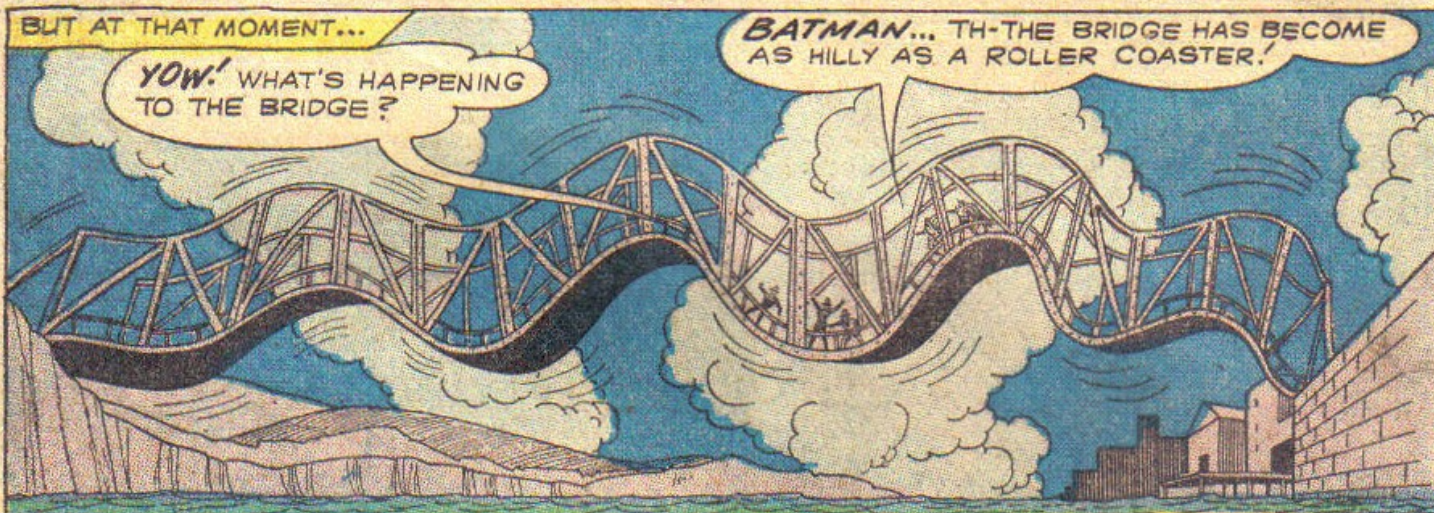
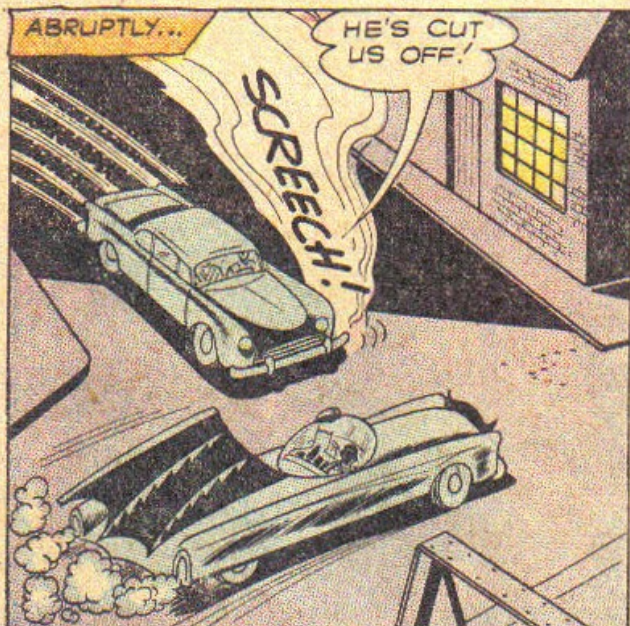


IT'S AN ELF... AN ELF DRESSED IN A CRAZY-LOOKING **BATMAN** COSTUME!

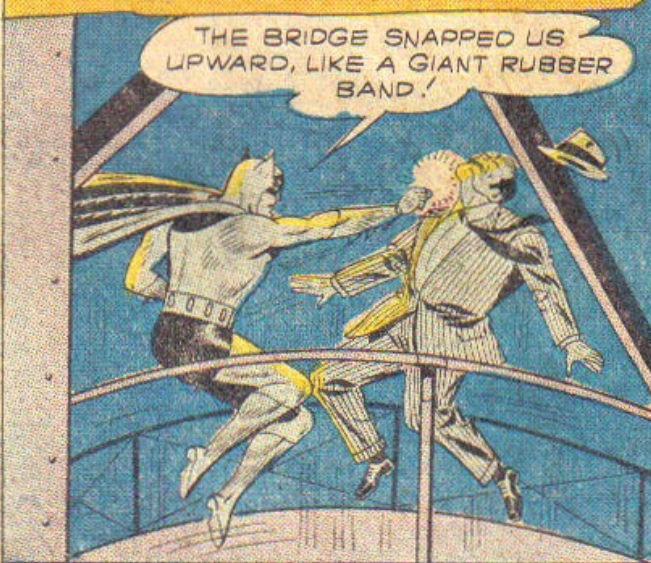
Hi!



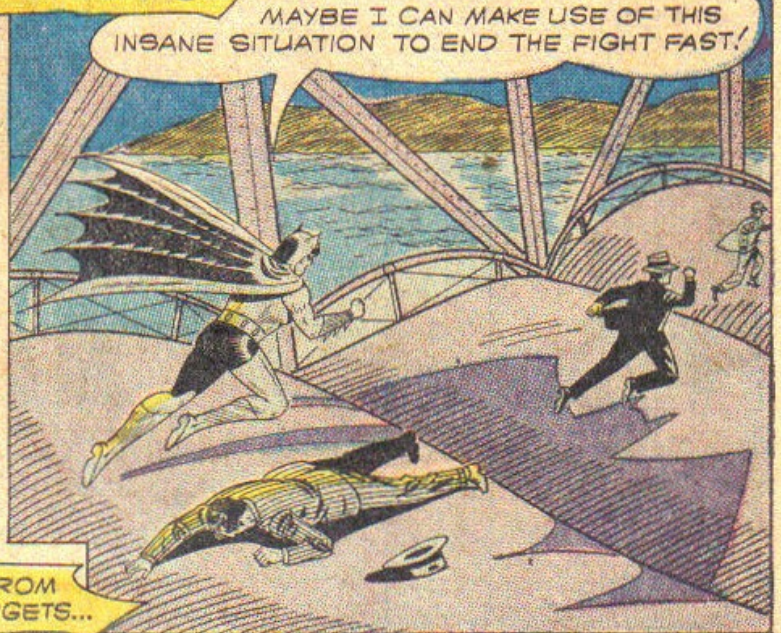




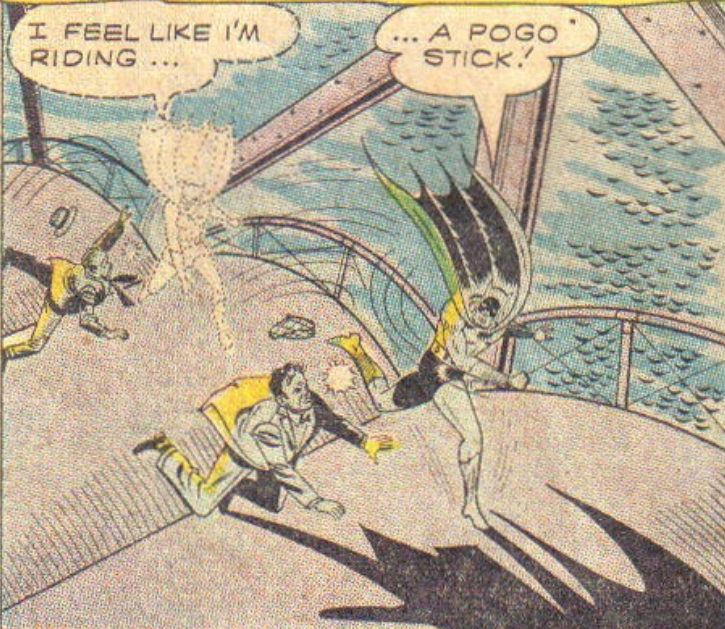
...ONLY TO COMPLETE HIS PUNCH IN MID-AIR!



AND AS THE PAIR RETURNS TO THE RUBBERY STRUCTURE...



LIKE A TENNIS BALL, **BATMAN** BOUNCES FROM HILL TO HILL -- HIS JUTTING FIST FINDING TARGETS...



WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE BANDITS, THE BRIDGE RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL STATE, PRESENTING **BATMAN** WITH STILL ANOTHER PROBLEM...



ER--THAT CHEMICAL PLANT... IT EMPTIES ITS WASTES INTO THE RIVER! THEY--UH-- MIGHT HAVE CAUSED A CHEMICAL REACTION WITH THE WATER -- EMITTING A GAS THAT GAVE US HALLUCINATIONS!



NOT UNTIL THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARRIVE HOME DOES **BAT-MITE** RETURN TO VISIBILITY...

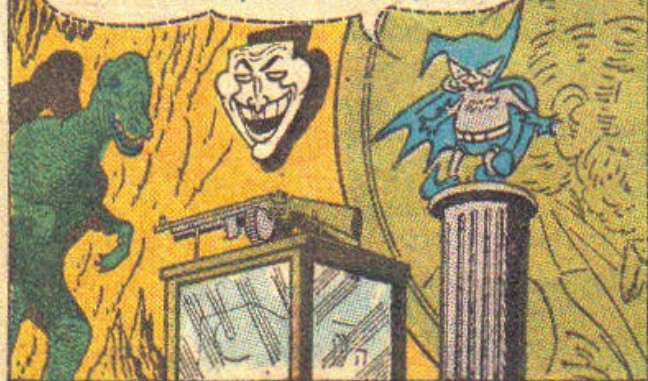




IN THE BAT-CAVE'S TROPHY ROOM, HOWEVER, AS SOON AS BATMAN AND ROBIN DEPART...

NOT TILL THE FOLLOWING EVENING DOES BAT-MITE GET HIS WISH...

I'LL BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN, BEFORE THEY RETURN TOMORROW! I CAN HARDLY WAIT... BOY-OH-BOY, WILL I HAVE FUN!



LOOK... THE BAT-SIGNAL IS FLASHING ON OUR TELE-SCREEN!

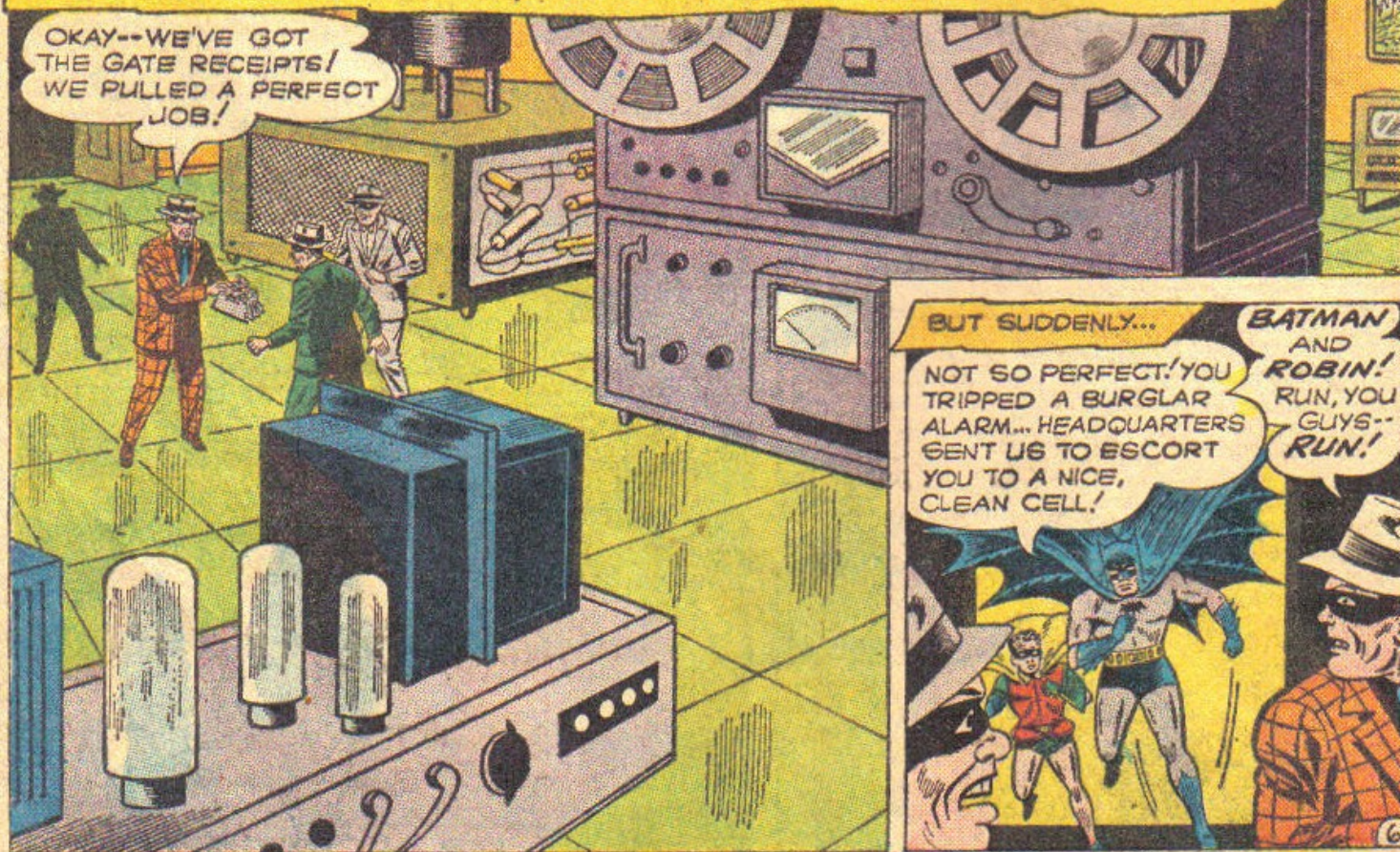
POLICE HEADQUARTERS HAS A JOB FOR US! LET'S GO!

YAHOO! HERE'S WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!



MEANWHILE, AFTER VISITING HOURS, IN AN EXPOSITION HALL HOUSING A HI-FI SHOW...

OKAY--WE'VE GOT THE GATE RECEIPTS! WE PULLED A PERFECT JOB!



BUT SUDDENLY...

NOT SO PERFECT! YOU TRIPPED A BURGLAR ALARM... HEADQUARTERS SENT US TO ESCORT YOU TO A NICE, CLEAN CELL!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! RUN, YOU GUYS-- RUN!



AS THE BANDITS TRY TO SCRAMBLE OVER THE GIANT MODEL OF AN AMPLIFIER...

YOU ALL RIGHT, **ROBIN?**

I'M FINE--BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THESE FELLOWS!

HOLD IT, **BATMAN**-- WE KNOW WHEN WE'RE LICKED!

GEE... AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME SPECTACULAR ACTION! GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO **CREATE SOME!**

ABRUPTLY, A RECORD COMES FLYING OFF A COLOSSAL PHONOGRAPH MODEL, AND...

HUH--?

GREAT SCOTT!

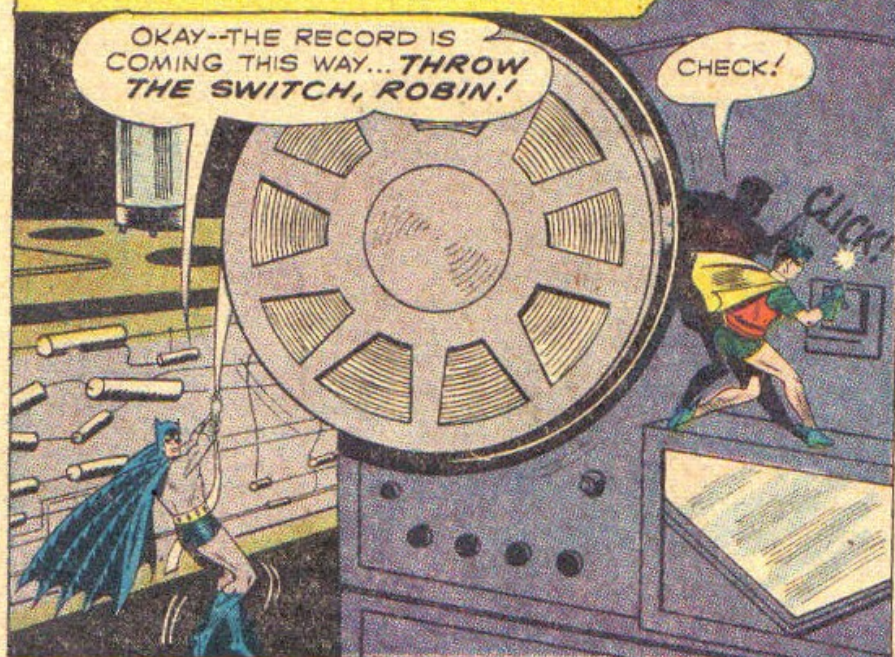
WH-WHERE'D THIS THING COME FROM?

WHO CARES? ALL I KNOW IS IT GOT US AWAY FROM **BATMAN AND ROBIN**... MAYBE IT'LL EVEN FLY US OUTA HERE!

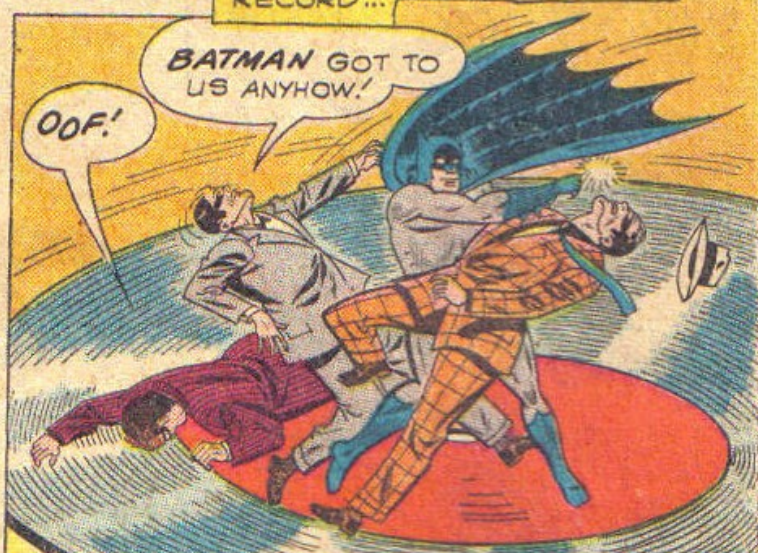
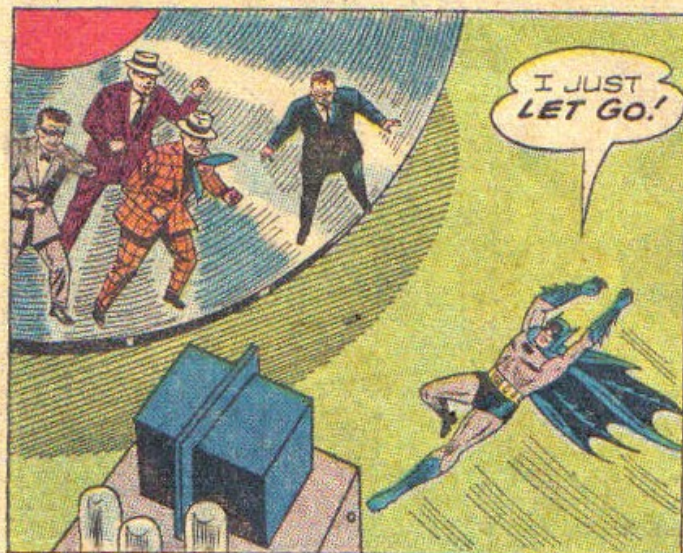
IT'S **BAT-MUTE'S** WORK AGAIN... THAT LITTLE IMP!

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE MUST THINK OF A WAY TO GET UP AT THOSE CROOKS!

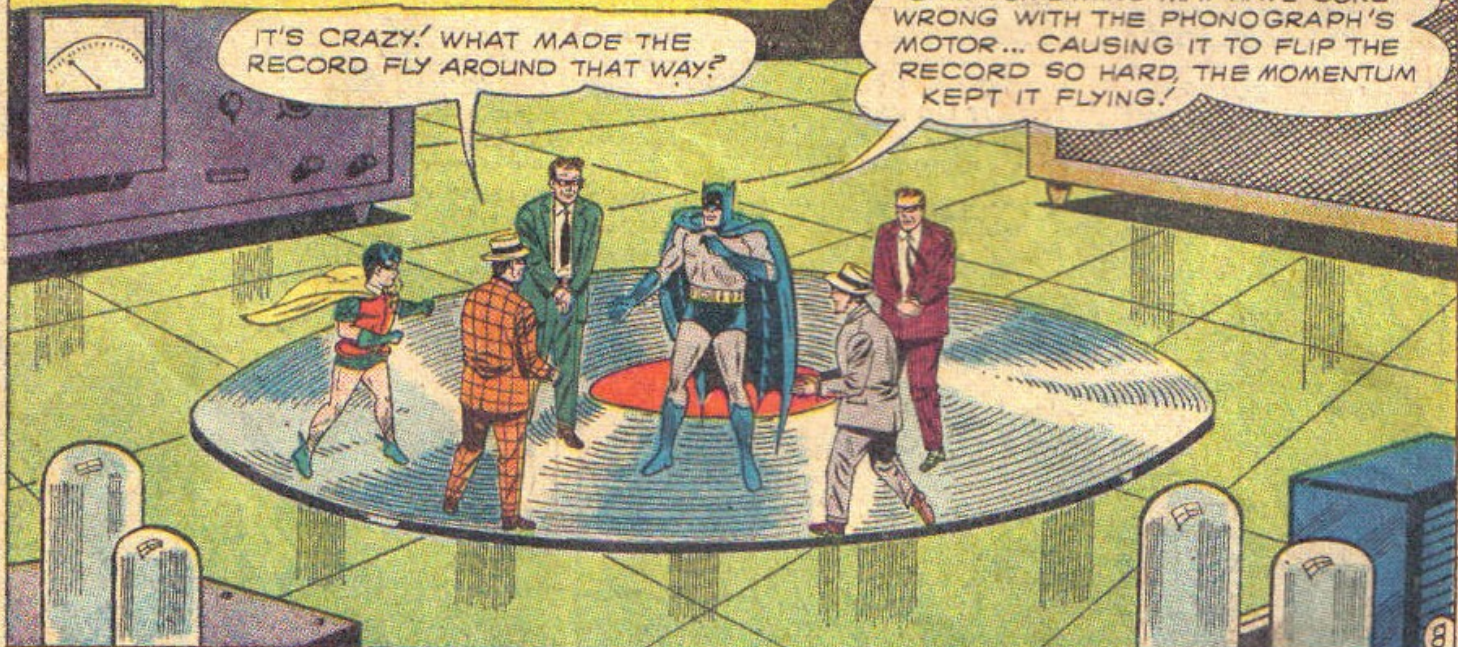
CLIMBING TO THE REEL OF A GIGANTIC TAPE RECORDER, **BATMAN** EMBARKS ON A DARING PLAN...



AS HE LANDS ATOP THE FLYING RECORD...



WITH THE BATTLE ENDED, THE RECORD LANDS GENTLY...



LATER, UPON RETURNING TO THE **BAT-CAVE**...

LISTEN, YOU LITTLE SCAMP, YOU'VE GOT TO CUT OUT ALL THIS MISCHIEF! YOU HEAR ME?... CUT IT OUT OR I **WILL** SPANK YOU!

AW, GEE, **BATMAN**-- WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR?



FURTHERMORE, I ... HMPH-- THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

LET'S HOPE HE STAYS AWAY FOR GOOD! I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF HIS IDEA OF "FUN"!



NEXT EVENING ...

ROBIN, I JUST GOT A TIP THAT THE **YELLOW GLOVES GANG** PLANS TO ROB THE SAFE OF THE **GOTHAM AUTO COMPANY**! I'VE ALREADY WARNED THE MANAGER ... HE'S REPLACED THE CASH IN THERE WITH FAKE MONEY!

I SEE ... MEANWHILE, WE'LL WAIT THERE IN HIDING TILL **AFTER** THEY STRIKE -- SO THAT OUR PRESENCE WON'T SCARE THEM OFF!



EXACTLY ... AND SINCE THIS EMPTY WAREHOUSE, NEXT DOOR, IS THE SHORTEST ESCAPE ROUTE, THAT'S WHERE WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM!

AN **EMPTY** WAREHOUSE? NO OBJECTS FOR SPECTACULAR ACTION? I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!



THUS, AWHILE LATER, AT THE COMING SCENE OF BATTLE ...



THERE ... WITH THESE PROPS 'BORROWED FROM A MOVIE LOT, I'VE PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SENSATIONAL **BATMAN** STUNTS! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE FUN TO BEGIN!

AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS THE **YELLOW GLOVES GANG** STARTS ITS GETAWAY...

I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WOULD BE EMPTY! HOW'D ALL THIS STUFF GET HERE?

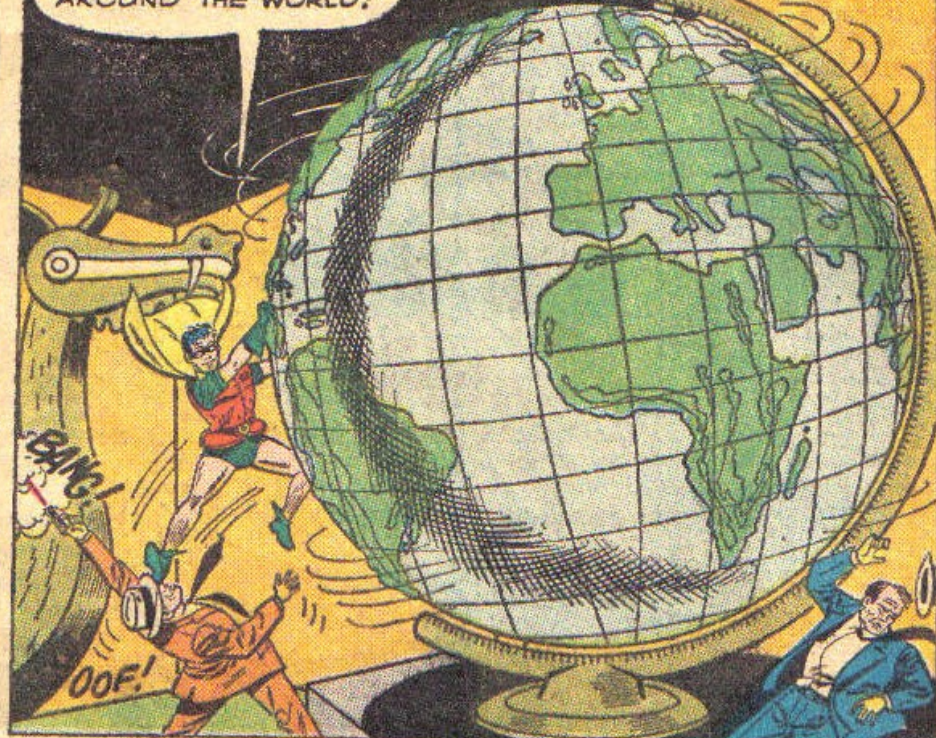
NEVER MIND THAT! HOW DID **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** GET HERE?



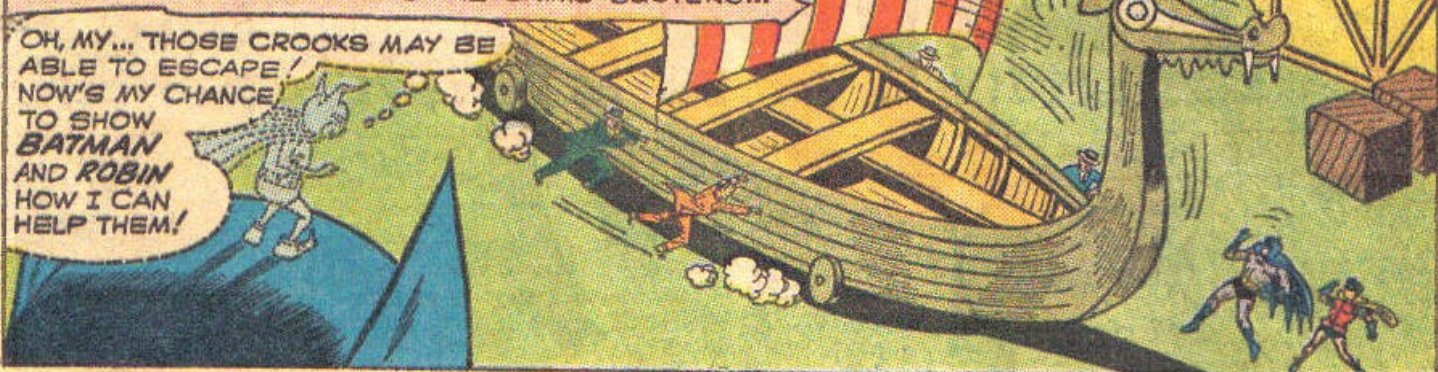
DEFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO SWINGS INTO ACTION...



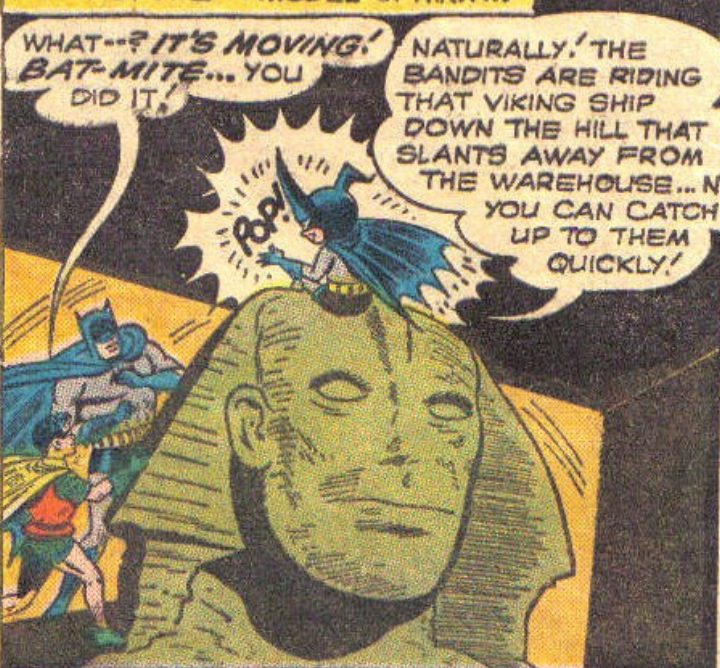
MAYBE WITH A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD!



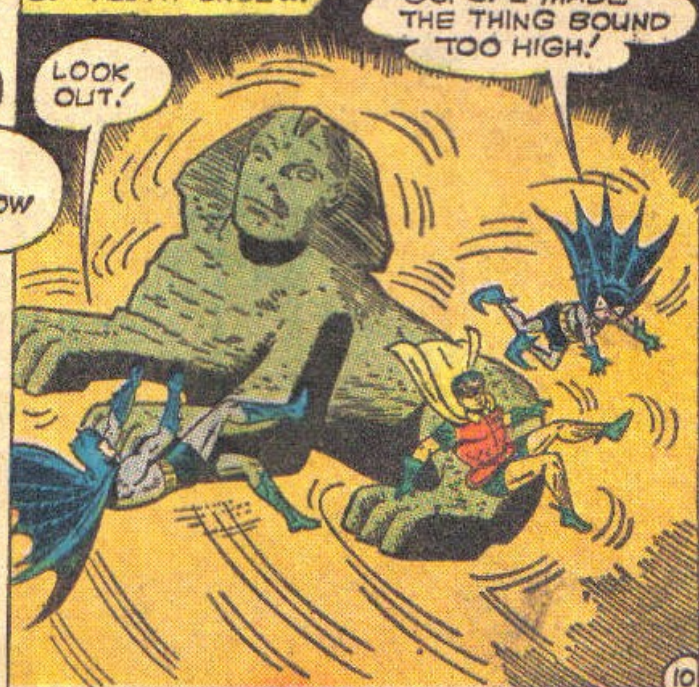
BUT A MOMENT LATER, AS THE DESPERATE BANDITS PUSH A DRAGON-SHIP INTO THE CRIME-BUSTERS...



NEXT INSTANT, AS AN UNSEEN FORCE WHISKS THE PAIR ASTRIDE A MODEL SPHINX...



BUT ALL AT ONCE...



GUESS I--UH--
OVERDOID MY POWERS
A BIT! JUST A
LITTLE MISTAKE...

YOU'RE THE
LITTLE MISTAKE!
YOU RIGGED UP
THIS ACTION SET
SO YOU'D HAVE SOME
FUN-- AND NOW YOUR
FUN HAS ALLOWED THOSE
BANDITS TO ESCAPE!

BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO
CATCH THEM YET--IF YOU USE YOUR
POWERS EXACTLY AS I TELL
YOU! UNDERSTAND?

Y-YESSIR!

MINUTES LATER, THE FLEEING BANDITS LOOK BACK AT AN UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT...

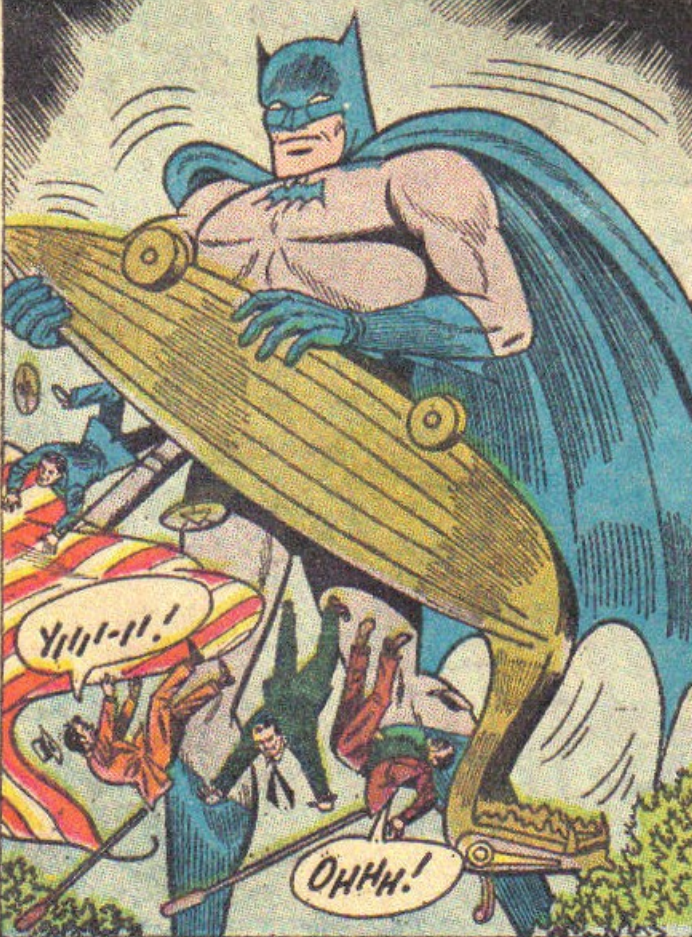
BOSS, LOOK! AM I SEEIN'
THINGS?

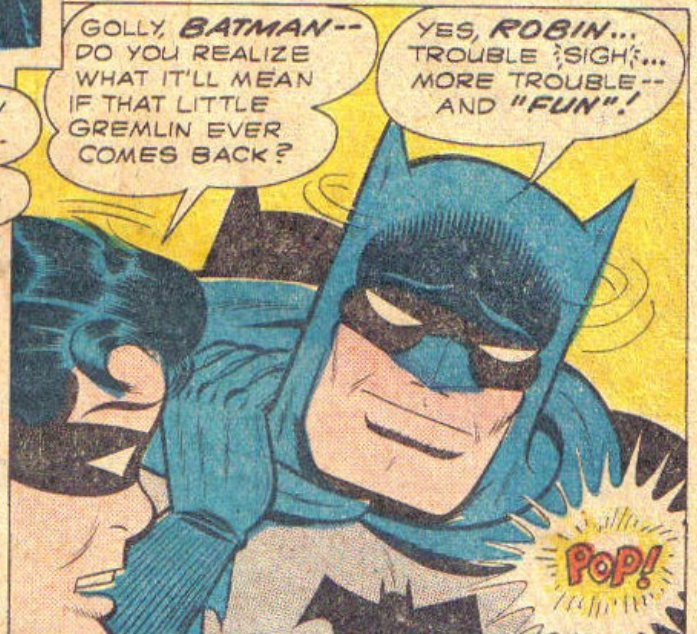
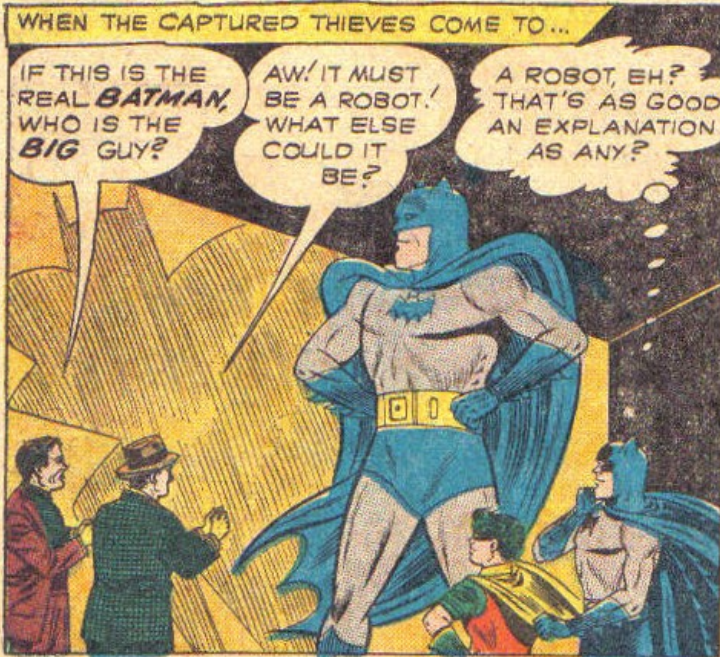
I SEE IT, TOO...
A GIANT BATMAN--
COMING AFTER US!

A MIGHTY HAND REACHES DOWN, AND...

THEN, FROM THE GIANT FIGURE'S "UTILITY BELT"
EMERGE TWO CAPED FIGURES...

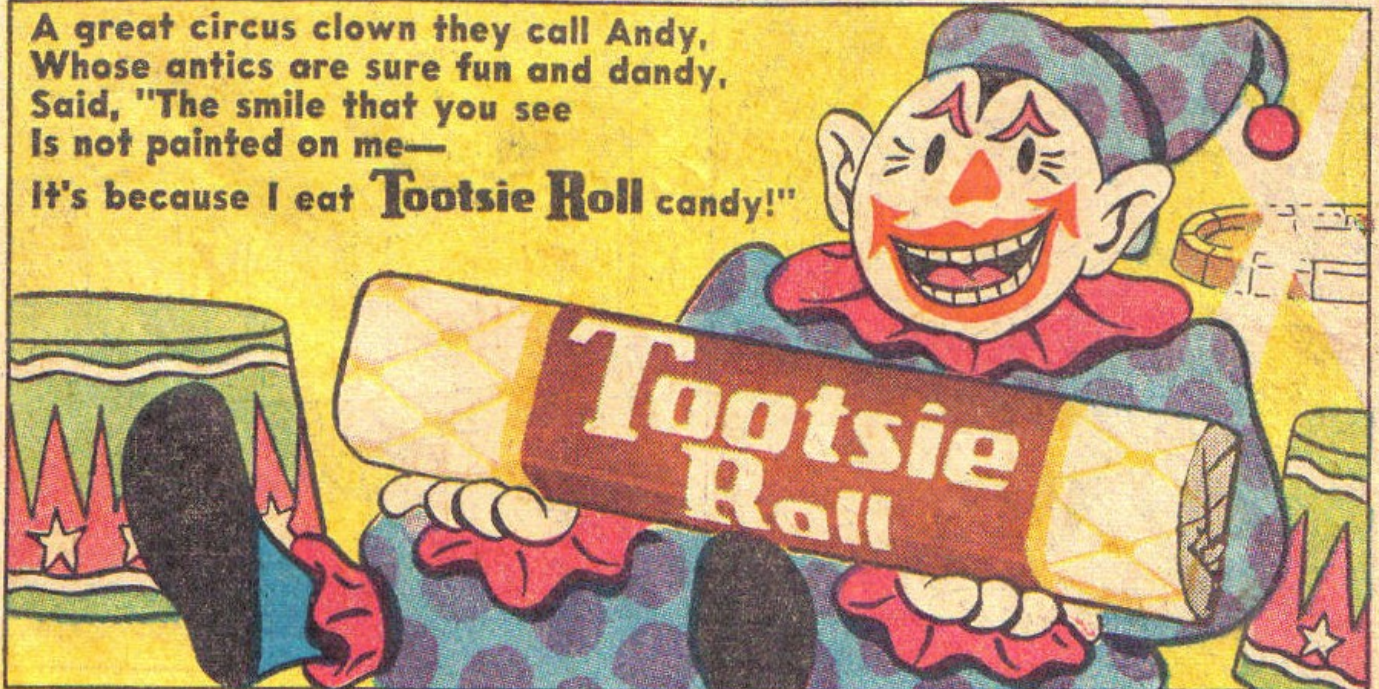
THANKS TO *BAT-MITE'S* MAKING THIS
STATUE OF ME COME TO LIFE, WE'VE
STOPPED THE ESCAPE! NOW *ROBIN*
AND I CAN CLIMB DOWN AND GRAB
THOSE DAZED THUGS!





ADVERTISEMENT

A great circus clown they call Andy,
Whose antics are sure fun and dandy,
Said, "The smile that you see
Is not painted on me—
It's because I eat **Tootsie Roll** candy!"





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SEPT.
NO. 134

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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

BATMAN

"The RAINBOW CREATURE!"

THAT GREEN AURA FROM
THE RAINBOW CREATURE
HAS TURNED US INTO
TWO-DIMENSIONAL
PEOPLE!



IT STALKED ACROSS A HELPLESS LAND--A FANTASTIC THING POSSESSING UNEARTHLY POWERS! LIKE A LIVING RAINBOW, ITS COLORS GLOWED EVILLY, SHEDDING THE LIGHT OF DESTRUCTION IN ITS PATH! ONLY THE GALLANT BATMAN AND ROBIN DARED DEFEY IT... ONLY THEY DARED HOPE THEY COULD HALT THE ONWARD MARCH OF...

the RAINBOW CREATURE



HA, HA! NONE CAN WITHSTAND THE POWERS OF MY RAINBOW BEAST!

GREAT SCOTT!... THE RAINBOW BEAST HAS TURNED THE HAND-CAR INTO A MIST!



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IN A SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HONORED GUESTS OF ITS BELOVED PRESIDENT...

THANKS TO YOUR HELP, THE REBEL, DIAZ, AND THE REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY ARE DEFEATED AND HIDING IN THE HILLS!

DIAZ IS NOTHING BUT A GANGSTER, A WOULD-BE DICTATOR! YOUR PEOPLE ARE WELL RID OF HIM!

JUST THEN...

EL PRESIDENTE! A BEAST WALKS OUR LAND!

A WHAT?

A BEAST OF COLORS--LIKE A RAINBOW...IT CAME FROM THE HILLS--NEAR THE FIERY VOLCANO--WHERE DIAZ AND HIS ARMY ARE HIDING!

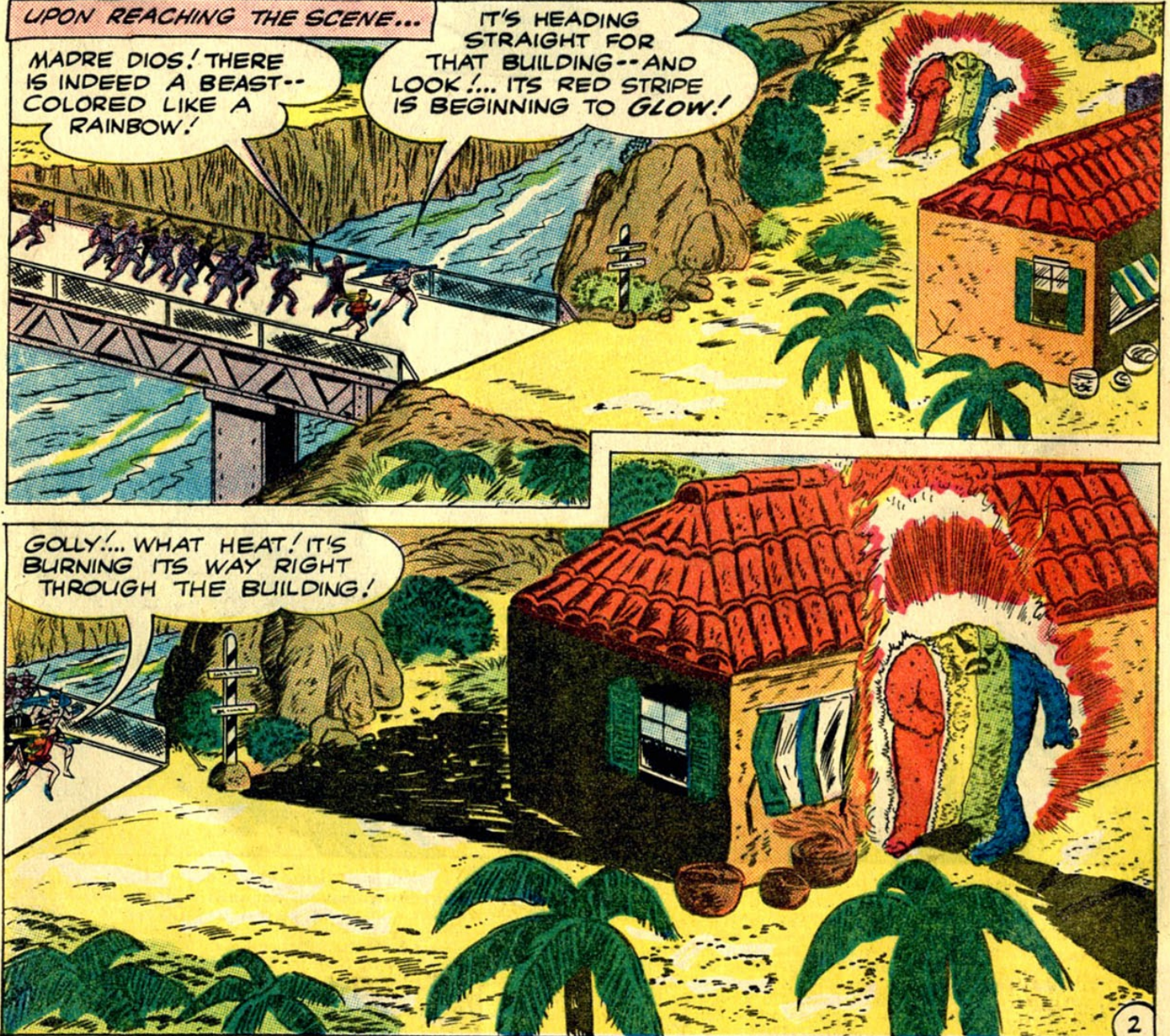
SO?... I WILL SUMMON SOME SOLDIERS AND GO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS "BEAST" YOU SPEAK OF!

UPON REACHING THE SCENE...

MADRE DIOS! THERE IS INDEED A BEAST--COLORED LIKE A RAINBOW!

IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT BUILDING--AND LOOK!... ITS RED STRIPE IS BEGINNING TO GLOW!

GOLLY!... WHAT HEAT! IT'S BURNING ITS WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE BUILDING!



A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE BEAST EMERGES...

IT'S NO LONGER RADIATING HEAT...
AND THE **RED COLOR** IS GONE
FROM ITS BODY, TOO!

IT SEES US! MEN--
GET BACK! BRING
UP THE SMALL
ARTILLERY!



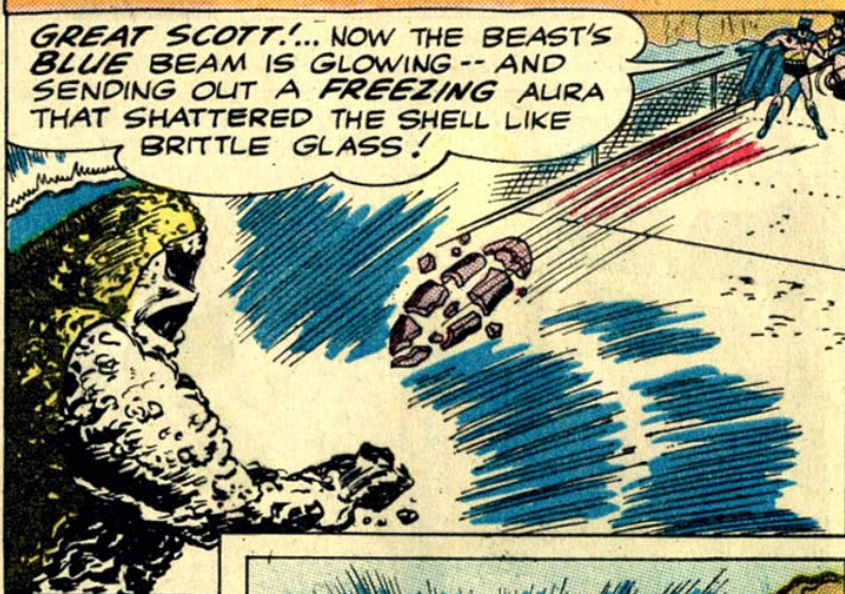
AND AS THE FANTASTIC CREATURE
LUMBERS WITHIN RANGE...

FIRE!

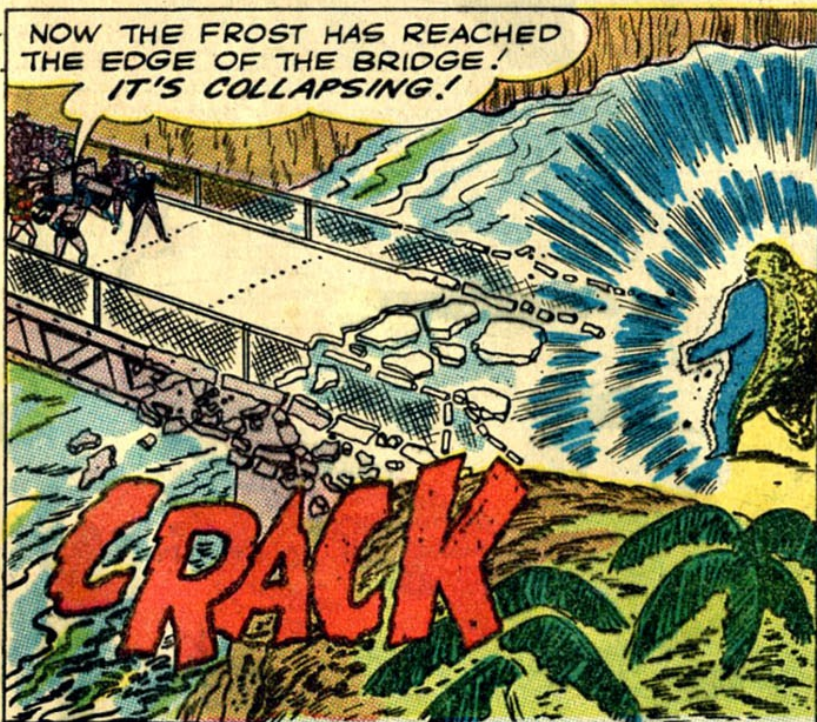


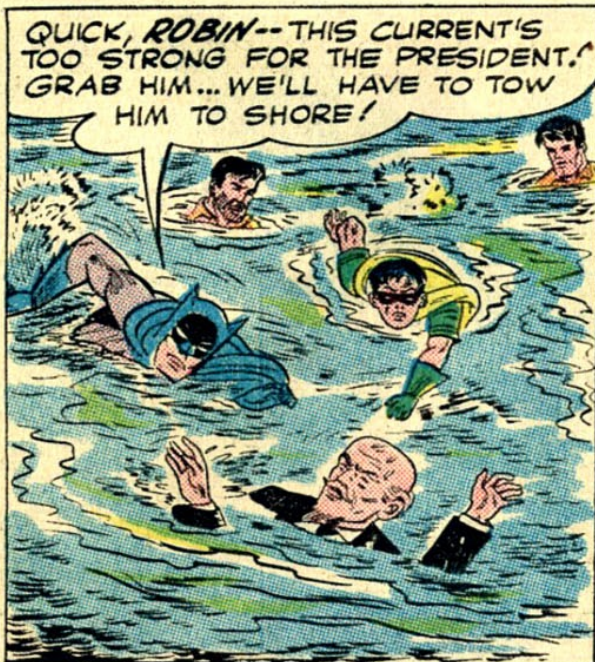
BUT BEFORE THE SHELL CAN REACH ITS TARGET...

GREAT SCOTT!... NOW THE BEAST'S
BLUE BEAM IS GLOWING-- AND
SENDING OUT A **FREEZING AURA**
THAT SHATTERED THE SHELL LIKE
BRITTLE GLASS!

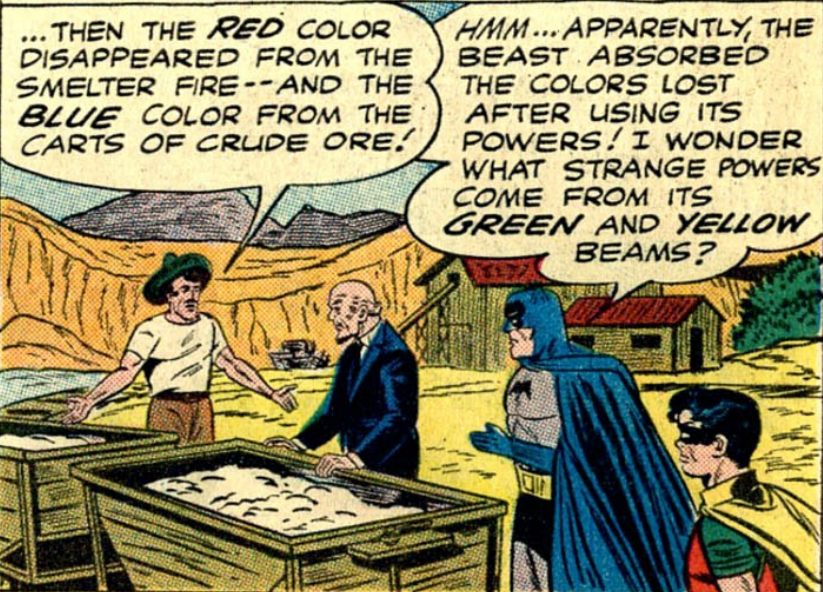


NOW THE FROST HAS REACHED
THE EDGE OF THE BRIDGE!
IT'S COLLAPSING!

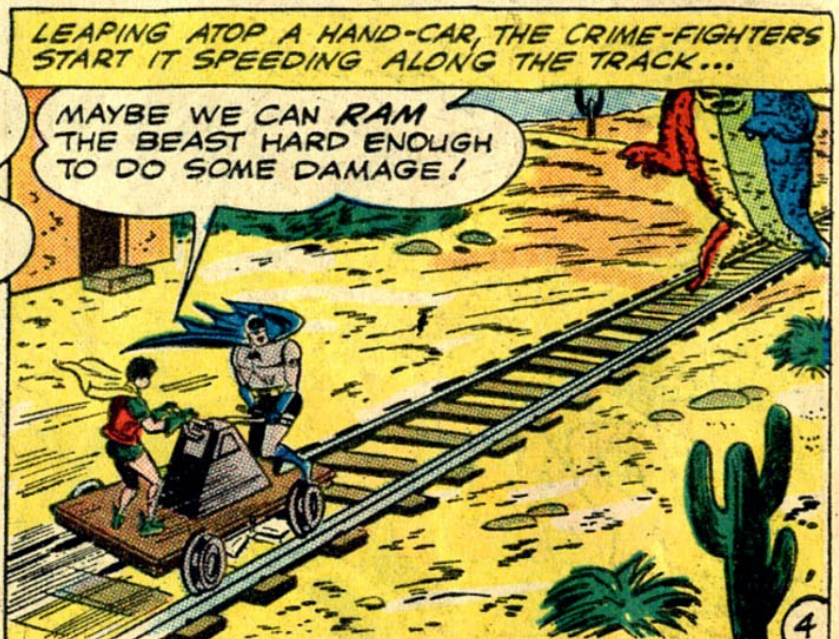


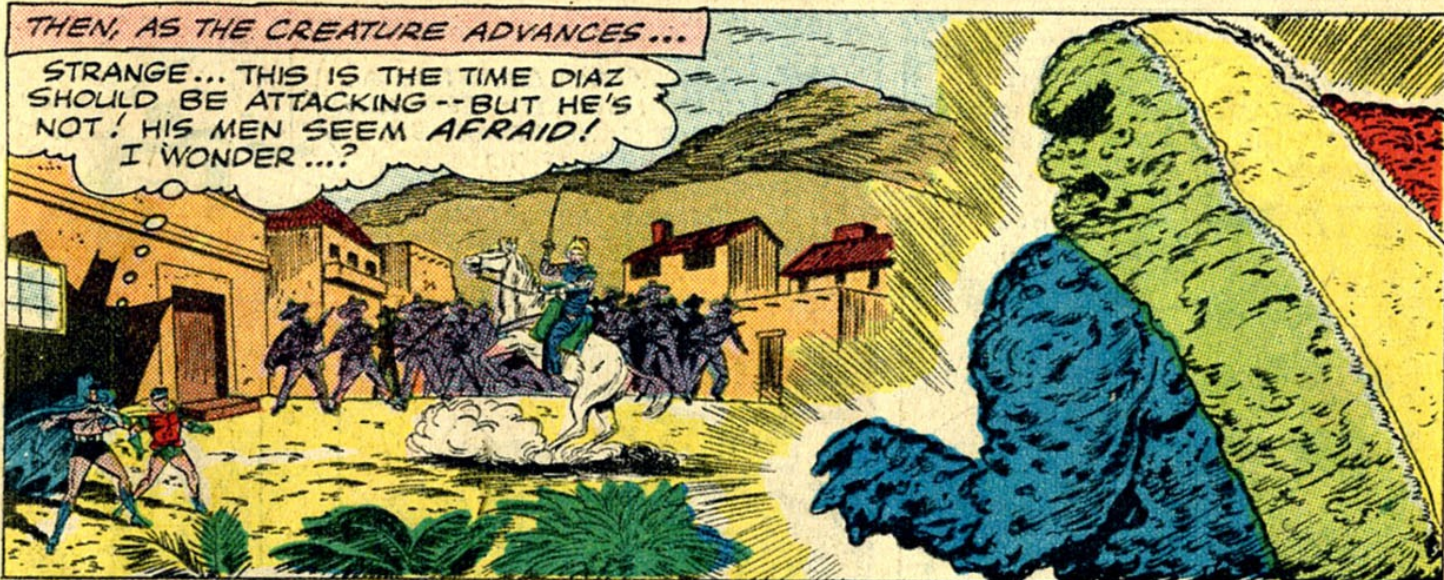


LATER, AFTER PICKING UP THE **RAINBOW BEAST**'S TRAIL, WHICH CROSSES A NEARBY COPPER REFINERY...



SHORTLY, AS THE SEARCH LEADS TO A LOCAL VILLAGE...

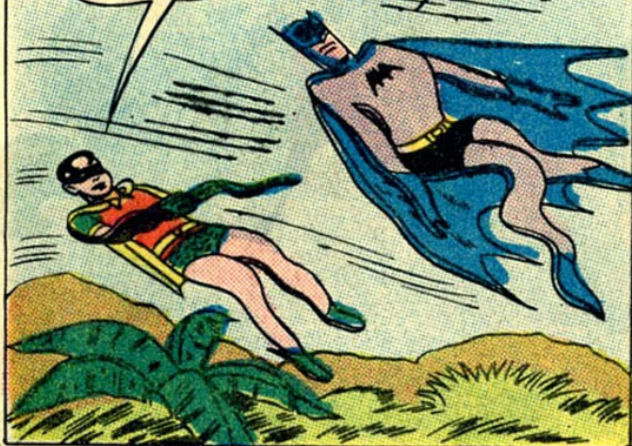




LIKE LEAVES, INDEED, THE HELPLESS PAIR IS BORNE AWAY ON A PUFF OF WIND...

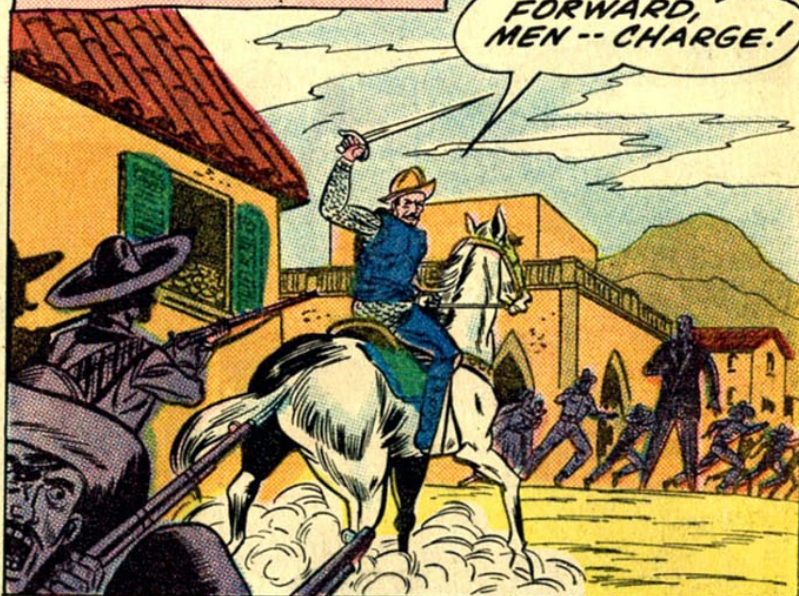
HOW LONG WILL WE REMAIN THIS WAY?

I--I DON'T KNOW, ROBIN!



MEANWHILE, AS THE RAINBOW BEAST MOVES ON PAST THE VILLAGE...

FORWARD, MEN -- CHARGE!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

BATMAN!... WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN!

YES--THE EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY AND--OH, OH... DIAZ IS ATTACKING-- AND I THINK I KNOW WHY!

SWIFTLY, BATMAN CLAMBERS TO A ROOFTOP, AND...

VILLAGERS! THE BEAST IS A FREAK OF NATURE--SPAWNED BY THE VOLCANO! DIAZ IS MERELY USING IT TO FRIGHTEN YOU! NOTICE, HIS MEN DID NOT ATTACK UNTIL AFTER THE CREATURE HAD GONE--BECAUSE THEY, TOO, WERE AFRAID OF IT!



IF DIAZ CAN CONTROL THE BEAST, AS HE CLAIMS-- WHY WOULD HIS OWN MEN BE AFRAID OF IT?

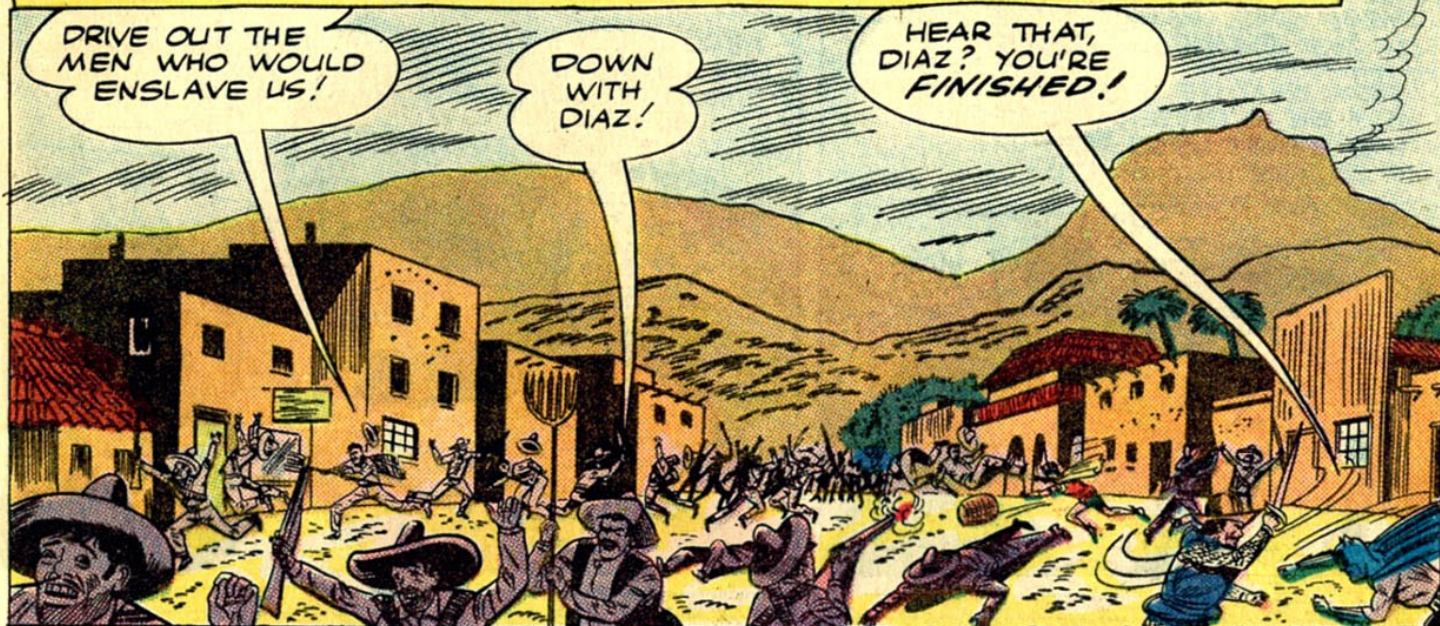
SILENCE HIM! SHOOT, HIM DOWN!



TOO LATE, DIAZ... THE PEOPLE ARE WISE TO YOU NOW!



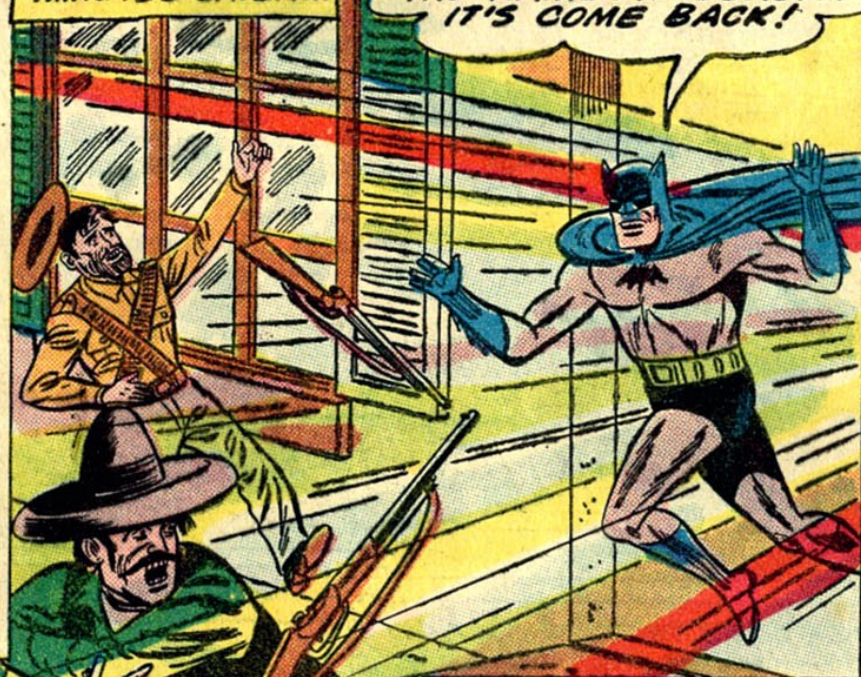
REALIZING THEY HAVE BEEN DUPED, THE IRATE VILLAGERS RISE UP IN ANGER...



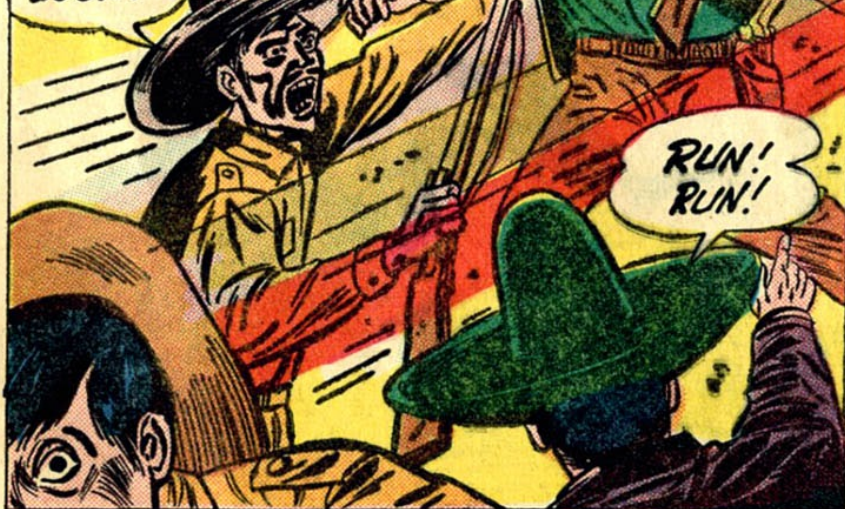
DIAZ'S SOLDIERS HAVE RIFLES--INNOCENT VILLAGERS MAY BE KILLED! HOW CAN I STOP IT? HMMM--THERE'S A TOY SHOP ON THIS STREET...IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



MINUTES LATER...

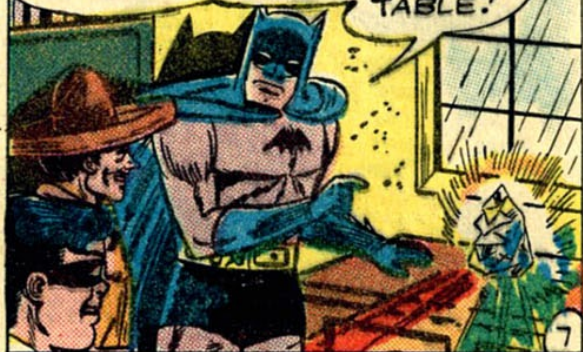


AII--!!
LOOK!



BUT AS THE REBELS FLEE, BATMAN REVEALS HIS RUSE TO THE VILLAGERS...

THAT'S WHAT MADE THE RAINBOW COLORS--A TOY PRISM I PLACED ON THAT TABLE!



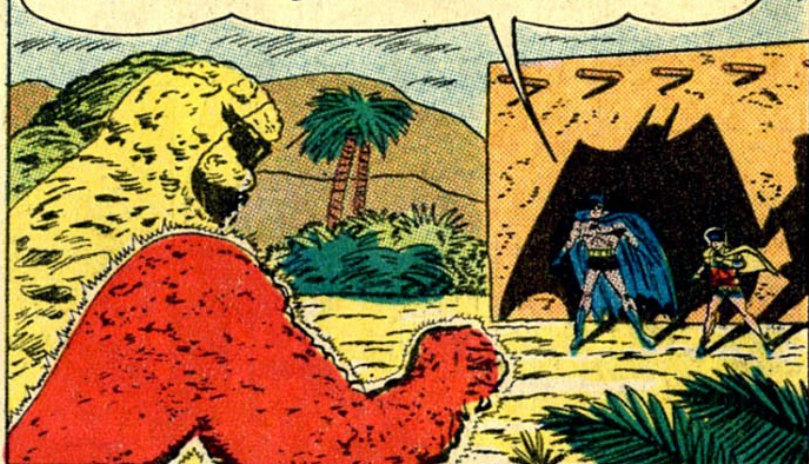
LATER, WITH THE CAPTURE OF DIAZ, THERE STILL REMAINS THE MENACE OF THE RAINBOW BEAST...

FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN, THERE MAY BE A PATTERN TO THE WAY THE BEAST USES ITS POWERS! IF SO, I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MAY WORK...



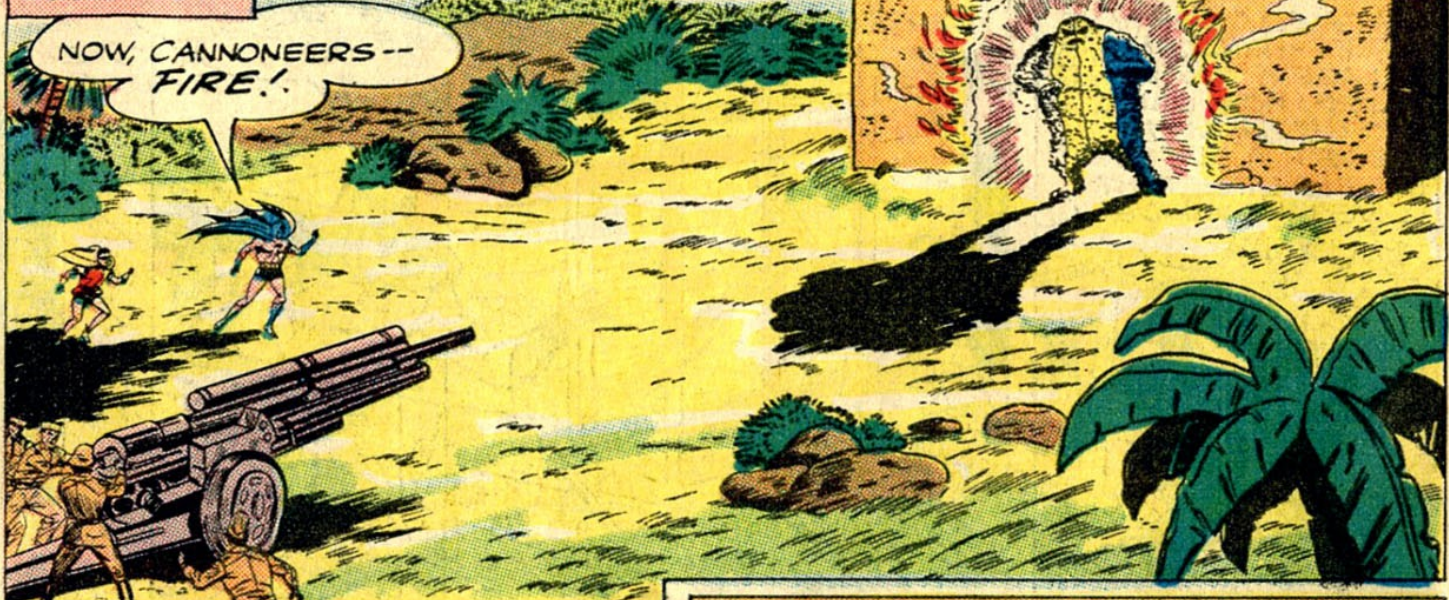
PRESENTLY, AFTER SOME HASTY PREPARATIONS...

HERE IT COMES! IF I'M RIGHT, THE CREATURE USES ITS RED COLOR TO BURN ITS WAY THROUGH ANY STRUCTURE IN ITS PATH!



SCORE ONE FOR BATMAN, AS THE RAINBOW BEAST FLAMES THROUGH THE BUILDING...

NOW, CANNONEERS-- FIRE!



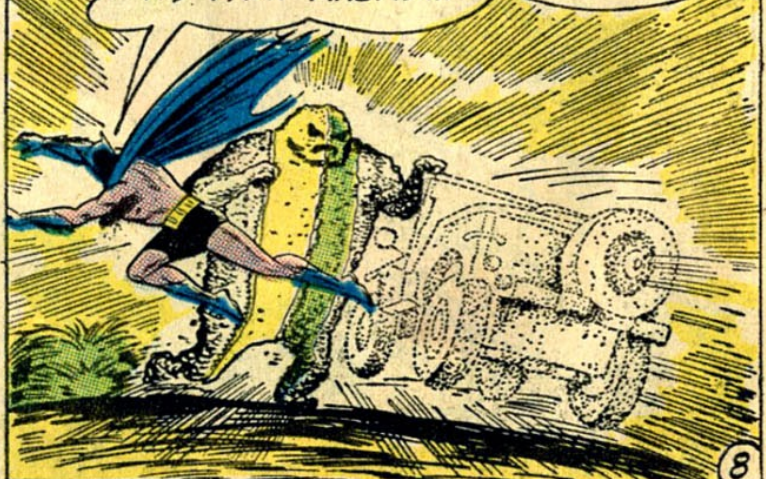
NO SOONER DOES THE BIG GUN GO OFF THAN...

JUST AS I HOPED-- THE BEAST USES THE POWER OF ITS BLUE COLOR AGAINST PROJECTILES! NOW FOR THE JEEP...



INSTANTS LATER, AS BATMAN ANTICIPATED...

IT USES ITS YELLOW COLOR AGAINST VEHICLES! NOW--IF IT WILL ONLY USE THE POWER OF ITS GREEN BEAM ON THE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS BLOCKING ITS PATH AHEAD...



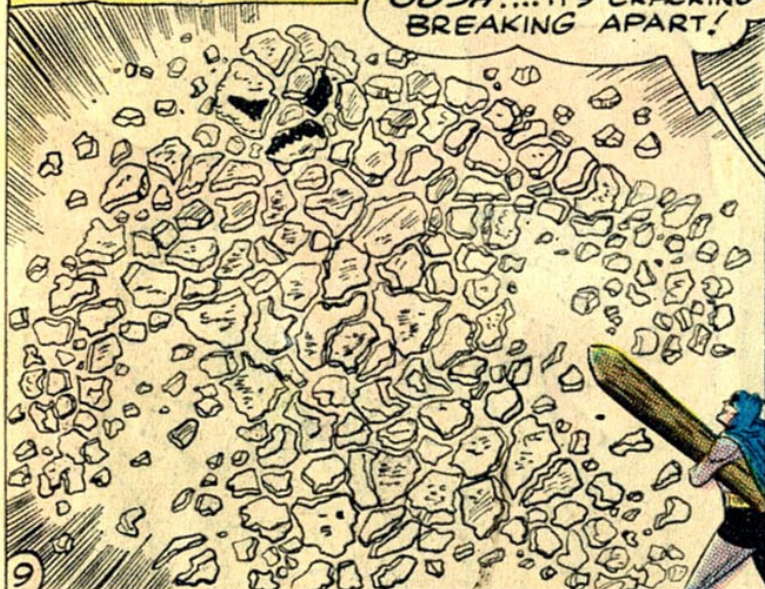
AND AGAIN, BATMAN'S HOPE IS REALIZED, AS...

DON'T WORRY, MEN--
THE EFFECT IS ONLY
TEMPORARY!



BUT BEFORE THEY CAN DO SO, THE RAINBOW
BEAST UNDERGOES A STRANGE
TRANSFORMATION...

GOSH!... IT'S CRACKING--
BREAKING APART!



THE PLAN WORKED! WE'VE MADE
THE RAINBOW BEAST USE ALL
ITS POWERS AT ONE TIME! NOW,
BEFORE IT CAN ABSORB ANY
MORE COLOR AND RENEW ITS
POWERS, WE'VE GOT TO RAM
IT-- HARD!



AND WITHIN SECONDS, ALL THAT
REMAINS OF THE RAINBOW BEAST
IS A MOUND OF COLORLESS DUST...

WHEN ITS POWER
AND COLOR WENT, THE
LIFE-FORCE THAT
HELD IT TOGETHER
WENT, TOO!

NOW THE WIND
WILL CARRY
THE DUST AWAY--
AND THERE
WILL BE
NOTHING LEFT
OF WHAT ONCE
WAS THE
RAINBOW
BEAST!



THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL
IS YOUR
Guarantee
OF THE **BEST**
IN COMICS
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BATMAN ADVENTURES
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WORLD'S FINEST
and **DETECTIVE**
COMICS

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BATMAN and ROBIN
ARE CHALLENGED
BY THE BIZARRE
PHANTOM OF
GOTHAM CITY!

ON SALE
EVERYWHERE!



12¢

BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

FEB.
NO. 153

A STARTLING
3-PART NOVEL
FEATURING
BATMAN
and **ROBIN** and
BATWOMAN
and **BAT-GIRL**
in
**PRISONERS
of THREE
WORLDS!**

ROBIN AND
BAT-GIRL ARE
VANISHING--AND
OUR LIFE FORCES
ARE BEING DRAINED
FROM US!





Chapter 1

BATWOMAN AND BAT-GIRL ARE A GREAT CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM AND BATMAN AND ROBIN AN EVEN GREATER ONE! BUT FATE STEPS IN TO HURTLE ROBIN WITH BAT-GIRL, AND BATMAN WITH BATWOMAN INTO STRANGE LANDS BEYOND SPACE AND TIME WHERE THEY BECOME...

PRISONERS OF THREE WORLDS

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BATMAN



IN GOTHAM CITY, A DEADLY DRAMA IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE-- AND UNKNOWINGLY, FOUR APPARENTLY ORDINARY PEOPLE WILL BE THRUST INTO THE LEADING ROLES...

BRUCE WAYNE-- WEALTHY, PROMINENT SOCIALITE...

BRUCE IS A NICE, AMIABLE FELLOW-- BUT IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME WHY HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO GOAL IN LIFE!



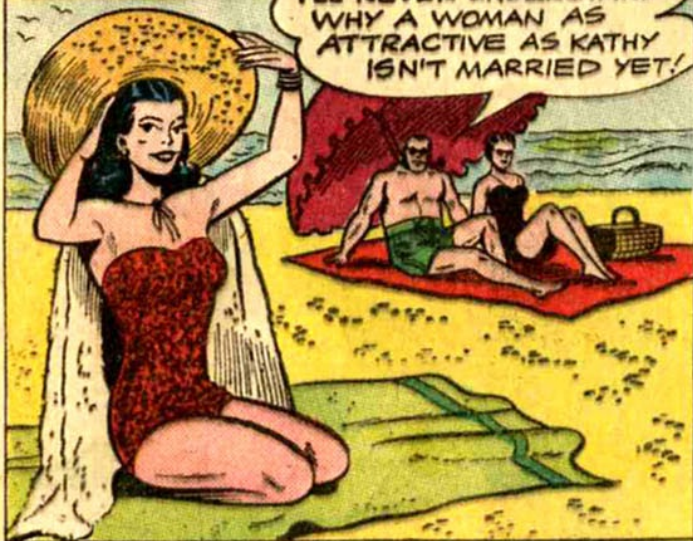
DICK GRAYSON-- WAYNE'S YOUNG WARD...

DICK GRAYSON IS CUTE-LOOKING-- BUT HE'S SUCH A DRAG! HE ISN'T EVEN GOING TO THE SCHOOL DANCE THIS AFTERNOON!



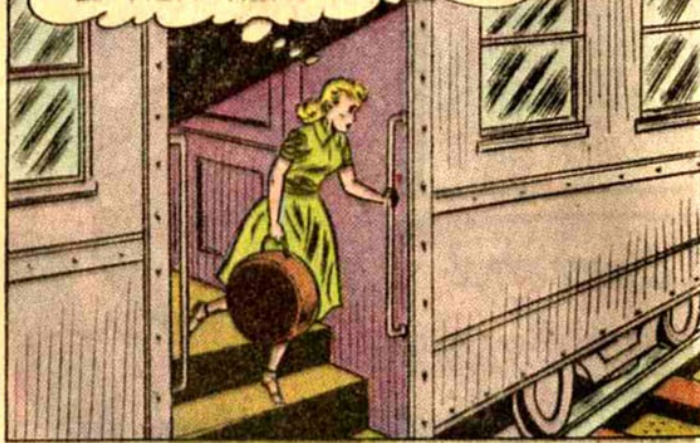
KATHY KANE-- BLESSED WITH RICHES AND BEAUTY...

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY A WOMAN AS ATTRACTIVE AS KATHY ISN'T MARRIED YET!



BETTY KANE-- KATHY'S YOUNG NIECE, FROM OUT-OF-TOWN...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE AUNT KATHY AGAIN! EXCITING THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN WHEN I VISIT HER!



FOUR ORDINARY PEOPLE, WITH ORDINARY LIVES! BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE WORLD, EACH OF THEM HAS A **DOUBLE LIFE!**

OKAY, **ROBIN**--LET'S TAKE THE **BATMOBILE** OUT FOR A SPIN AND SEE IF ANY CRIMES NEED BUSTING!



HURRY AUNT KATHY! GOSH! I HOPE I GET A CHANCE TO SEE **BATMAN** AGAIN!

BATMAN? ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN **ROBIN?**



FOUR NOT-SO-ORDINARY PEOPLE--BUT THERE IS YET ANOTHER, WHOM FATE HAS SELECTED TO CATAPULT THEM INTO FANTASTIC ADVENTURE!

NOW, FOR MY MISSION! BUT FIRST, I MUST STORE MY **TELEPORTER** SOMEWHERE! AH! THAT DESERTED OLD BUILDING WILL DO FINE-- THEN I'LL START MY SEARCH FOR **VAUX**!



SHORTLY, AS A U.S. MAIL HELICOPTER IS ON ITS WAY TOWARD A MAIL STATION...

GREAT GUNS! SOME KIND OF ALIEN BEING! I'D BETTER SEE WHERE HE'S HEADING-- AND RADIO THE POLICE IN CASE HE INTENDS TO MAKE TROUBLE!



AS THE ALIEN NEARS THE ROAD...

THE **VAUX-DETECTOR** IS CLICKING--INDICATING A GOOD QUANTITY OF **VAUX** IN THAT BUILDING AHEAD!

JEWELRY DESIGN EXPOSITION



MOMENTS LATER, THE **BATMOBILE** DRAWS NEAR...

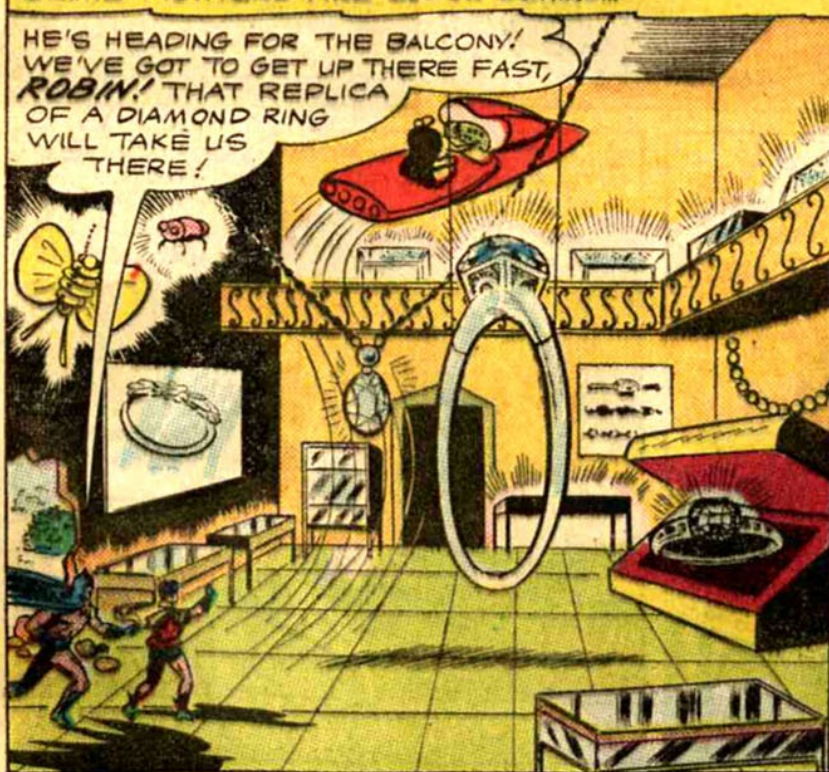
THAT MUST BE HIM-- THE ALIEN THE POLICE ALARM MENTIONED!

HIS STRANGE WEAPON IS **DISINTEGRATING** THAT WALL!

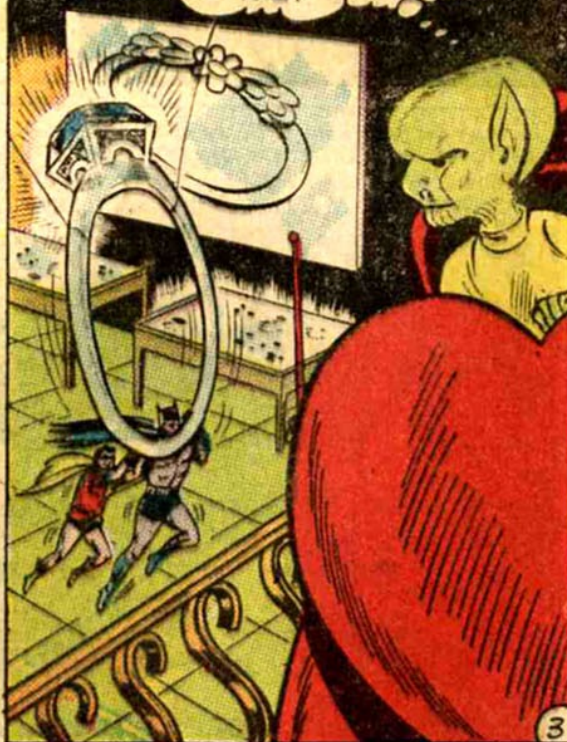


AS THE ALIEN'S SLED ZOOMS INTO THE BUILDING, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE CLOSE BEHIND...

HE'S HEADING FOR THE BALCONY! WE'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE FAST, **ROBIN**! THAT REPLICA OF A DIAMOND RING WILL TAKE US THERE!



THOSE TWO-- THEY SEEM INTENT UPON SEIZING ME!



SWIFTLY, **KARN** DRIVES HIS SLED FORWARD AT AMAZING SPEED, SNAPPING THE WIRES...



INSTANTLY, **BATMAN** GAUGES THE DANGER--AND TRAINED REFLEXES ACT WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT!

ONLY CHANCE--
THAT MODEL OF
A PENDANT!

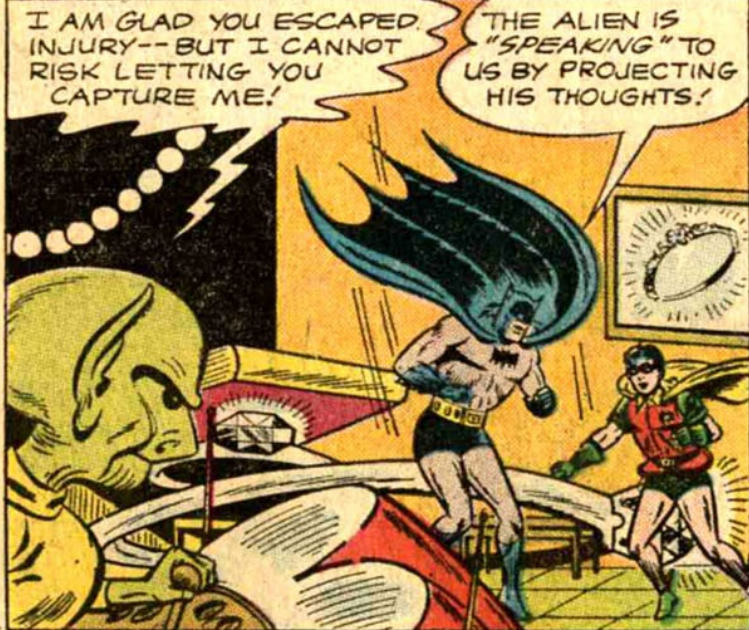


VISELIKE, **BATMAN'S** HANDS GRIP THEIR TARGET, AND...



I AM GLAD YOU ESCAPED INJURY--BUT I CANNOT RISK LETTING YOU CAPTURE ME!

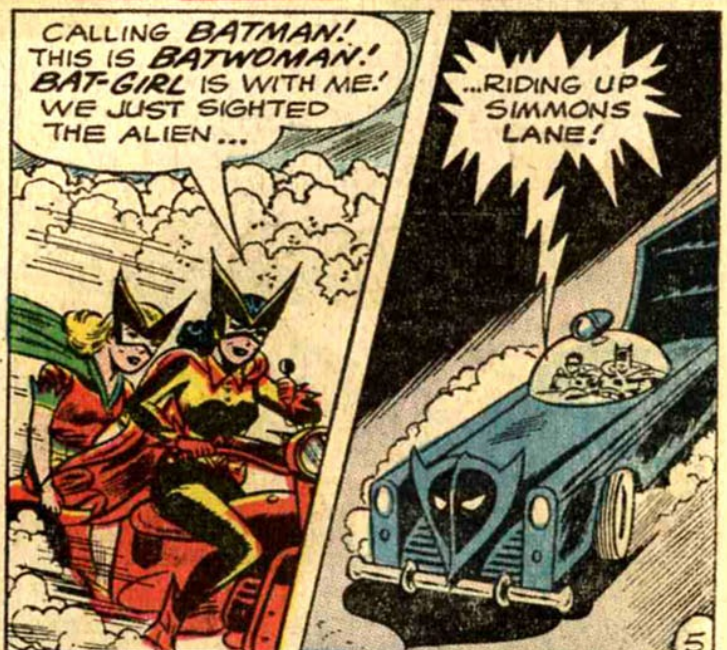
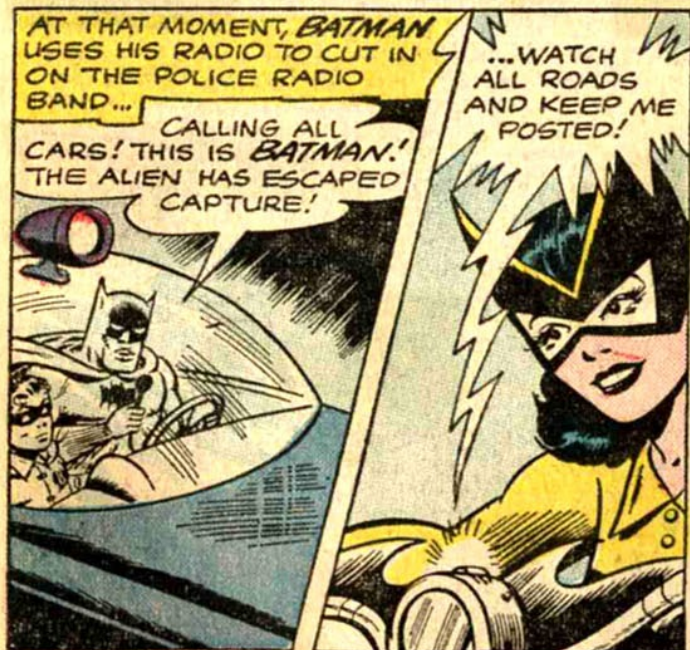
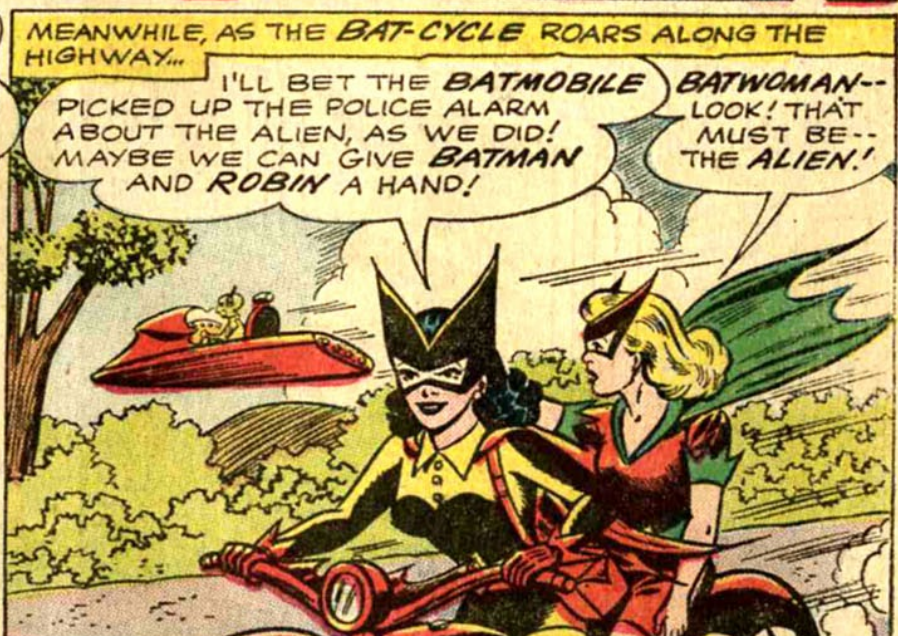
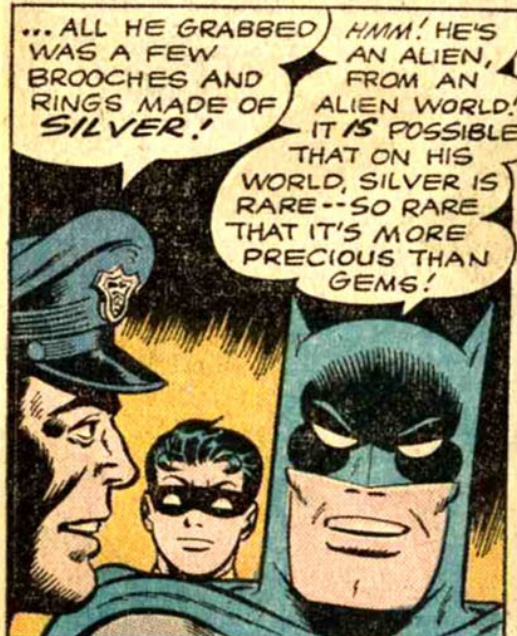
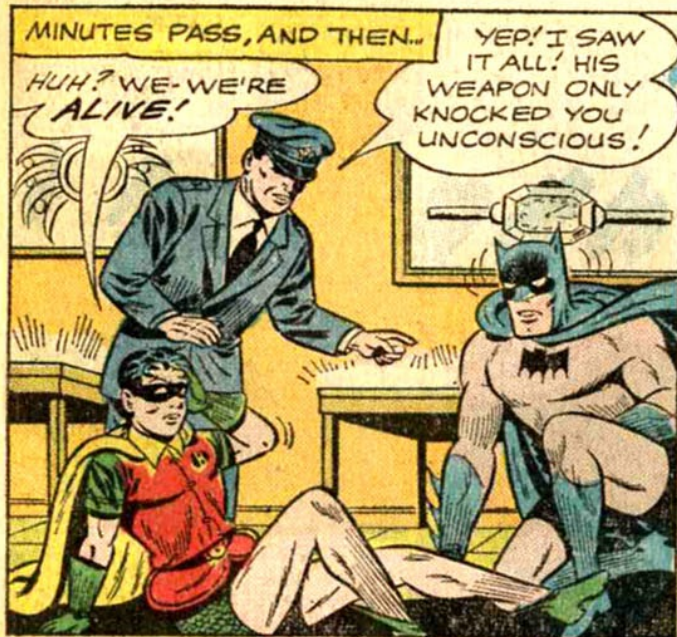
THE ALIEN IS "SPEAKING" TO US BY PROJECTING HIS THOUGHTS!



I MUST STOP YOU FROM INTERFERING WITH MY MISSION!

THE WEAPON THAT DISINTEGRATED THE WALL--FIRING AT US! UHH--UHH!





SHORTLY, AFTER THE TWO TEAMS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS JOIN FORCES...

SIMMONS LANE LEADS TO THE BIG ACE FILM COMPANY PLANT! THEY USE A LOT OF SILVER THERE!

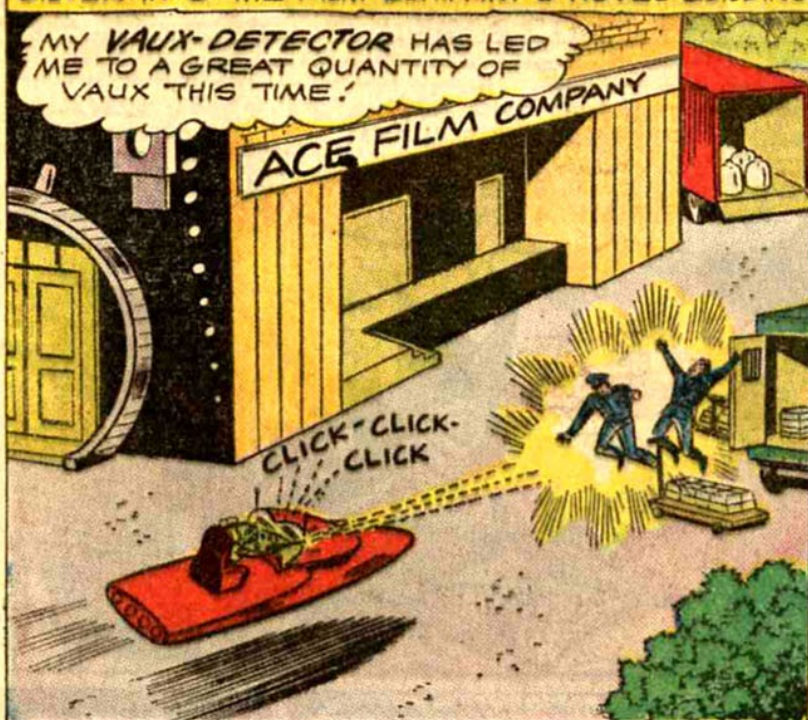
RIGHT! THAT COMPANY MANUFACTURES TONS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM--AND FILM EMULSION CONTAINS SILVER CHLORIDE OR SILVER BROMIDE!



AS GUARDS ARE ABOUT TO WHEEL INGOTS OF SILVER INTO THE FILM COMPANY'S NOVEL BUILDING...

MY VAUX-DETECTOR HAS LED ME TO A GREAT QUANTITY OF VAUX THIS TIME!

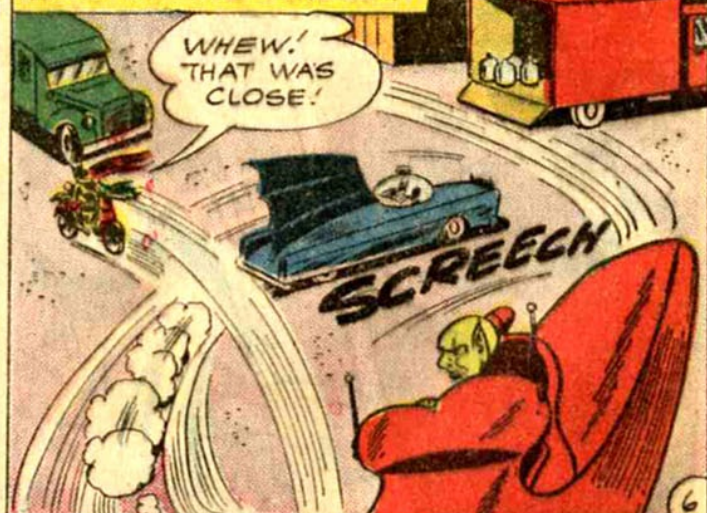
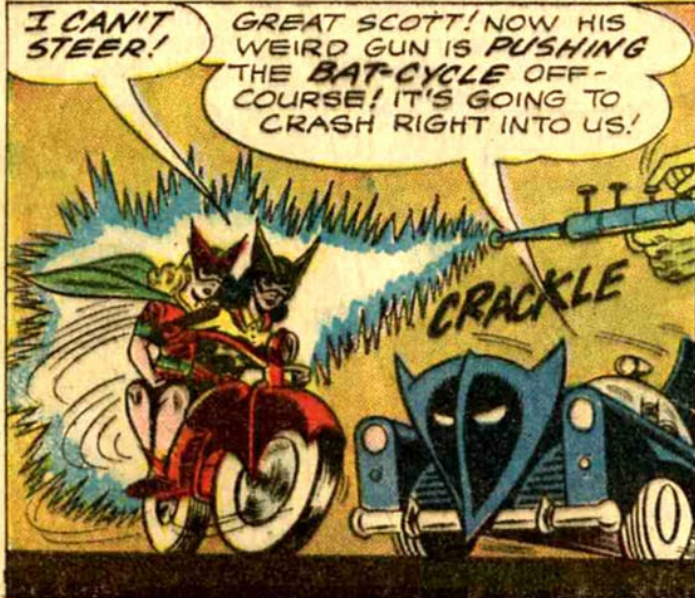
THE ONES WHO CALLED EACH OTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND WITH THEM ARE TWO MASKED FEMALES! I MUST ACT QUICKLY!

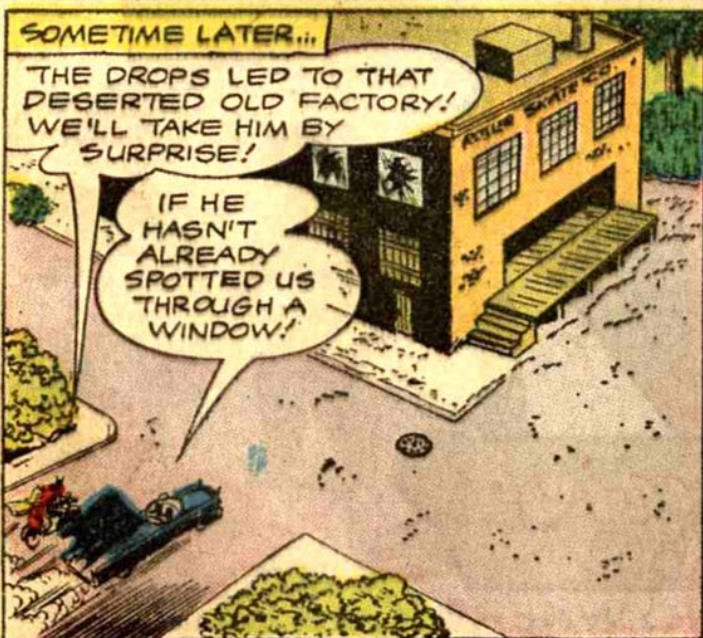
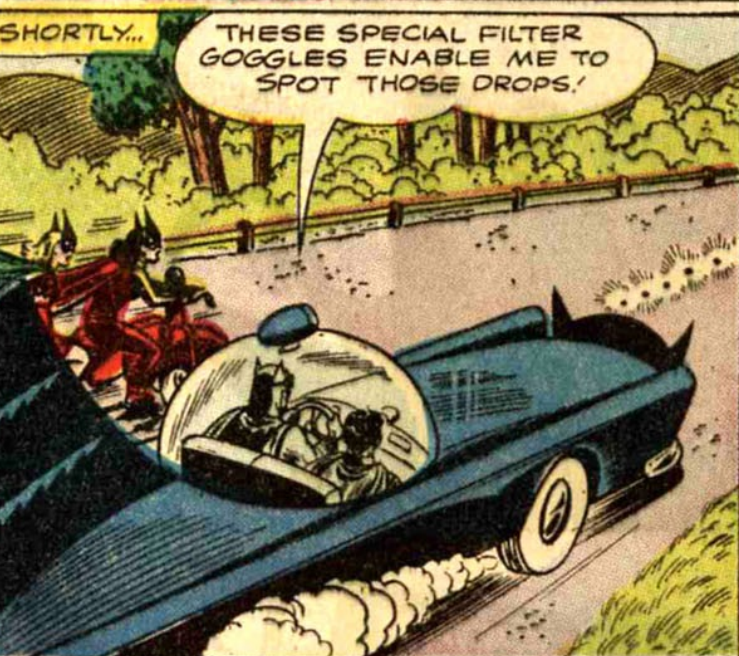
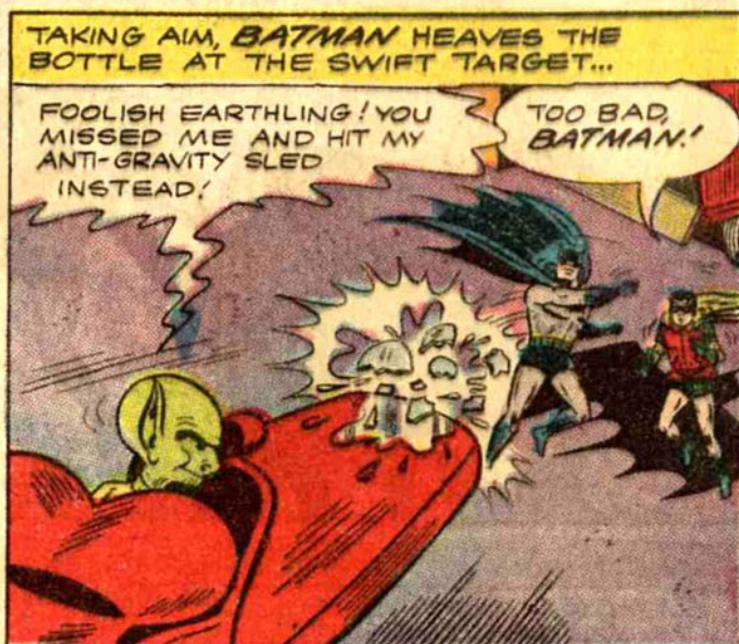


I CAN'T STEER!

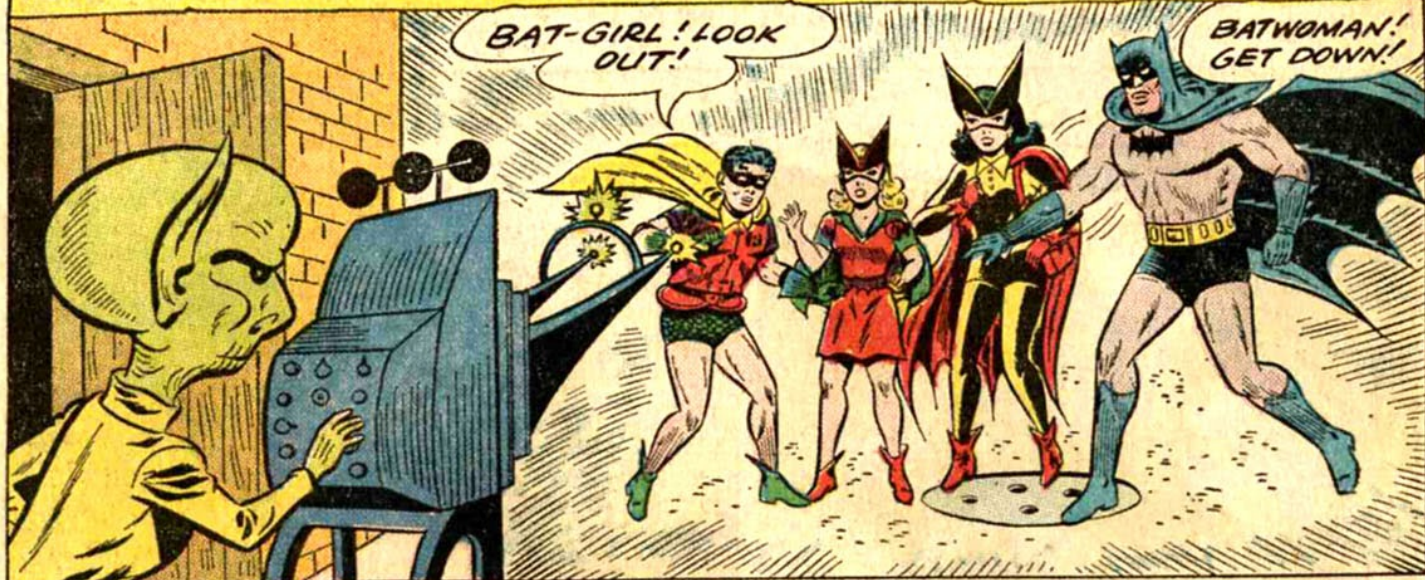
GREAT SCOTT! NOW HIS WEIRD GUN IS PUSHING THE BAT-CYCLE OFF-COURSE! IT'S GOING TO CRASH RIGHT INTO US!

WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE REFLEXES, BATMAN STEPS ON THE GAS, AND THEN YANKS HARD AT THE WHEEL...





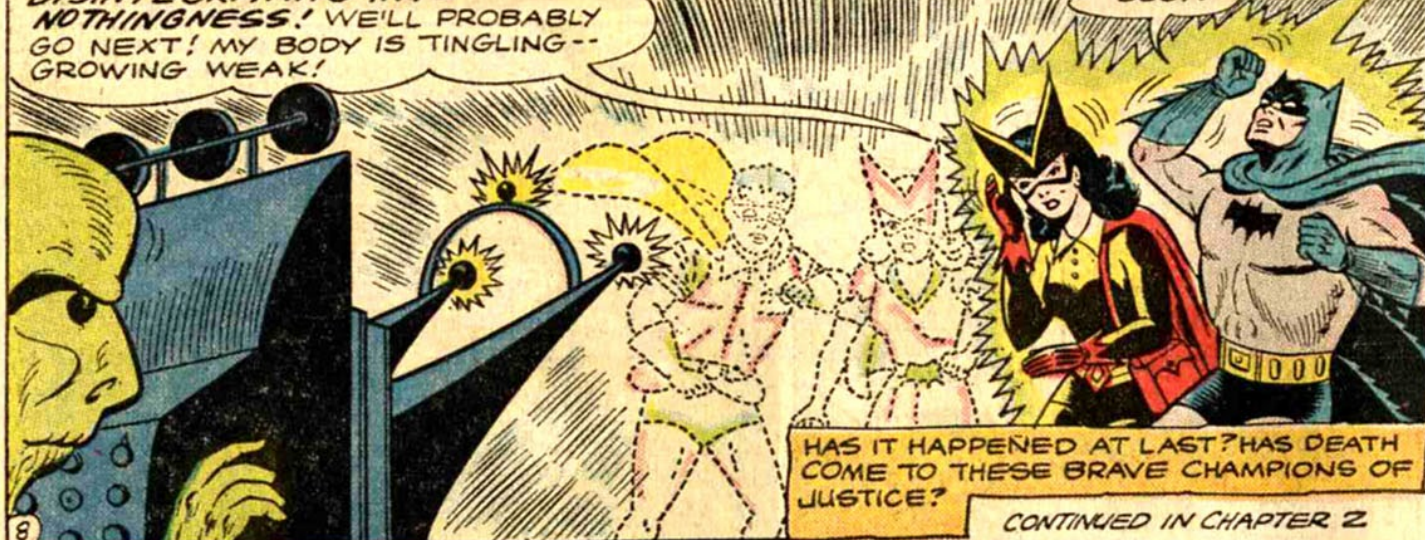
FEARING FOR **BATWOMAN** AND **BAT-GIRL**, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** LEAP FORWARD, HOPING TO SHIELD THEM FROM THE MACHINE'S SWEEPING RADIANCE!



SIMULTANEOUSLY, TWO AMAZING EVENTS OCCUR!

BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN--
DISINTEGRATING INTO
NOTHINGNESS! WE'LL PROBABLY
GO NEXT! MY BODY IS TINGLING--
GROWING WEAK!

ME, TOO! I FEEL AS IF EVERY
ATOM IN ME IS STRETCHING--
BREAKING FREE OF MY
BODY!



HAS IT HAPPENED AT LAST? HAS DEATH
COME TO THESE BRAVE CHAMPIONS OF
JUSTICE?

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2



Follow the
adventures
of
BATMAN
and **ROBIN**
IN THESE
LATEST ISSUES
of

Detective
COMICS



NOV. 29th

ON SALE EVERYWHERE.!

← DEC. 27th





BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THAT'S IT, BATWOMAN--
CONCENTRATE! WE MUST
FOCUS OUR ENERGY-FORCE
AT THAT WINGED MONSTER,
IN ORDER TO SAVE THE
LIVES OF THE BIRD-
PEOPLE!

Chapter 2

As BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS, THEIR FATE REMAINS UNKNOWN--
BUT WHAT OF BATMAN AND BATWOMAN? THEY HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF A
FREAK ACCIDENT--FOR THEY HAVE HURTLed INTO SPACE, YET REMAIN
ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME! INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE--AS YOU WILL SEE
WHEN BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE MENACED BY..

DEATH FROM BEYOND

BEFORE THEIR HORRIFIED EYES, **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** SEE **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL** FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS! THEN...

TH--THEY'VE DISAPPEARED--BUT WE'RE STILL HERE! STRANGE--THE ELECTRIC AURA THAT WAS ABOUT US, IS GONE--AND NOW THAT IT HAS, I'M SO...SO TIRED...

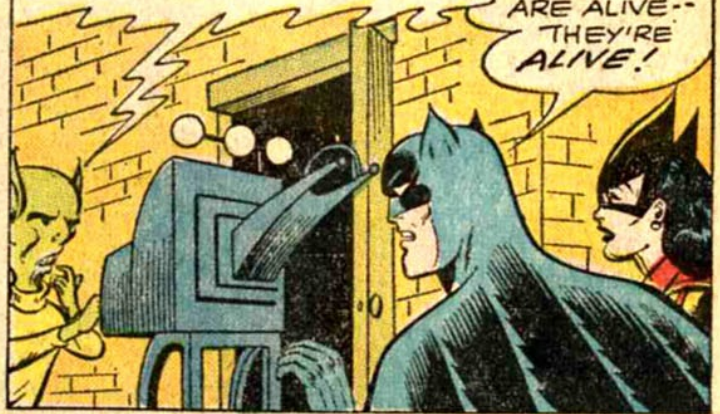
I--I FEEL AS IF ALL THE ENERGY WAS DRAINED FROM ME...



AT THAT MOMENT, THE MYSTIFIED ALIEN TURNS OFF HIS MACHINE...

VERY ODD! MY **TELEPORTER** SHOULD HAVE TRANSMITTED YOU TWO TO MY DIMENSION, AS IT DID THE BOY AND THE GIRL--YET IT DIDN'T!

BATWOMAN! DID YOU HEAR? **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL** ARE ALIVE--THEY'RE ALIVE!



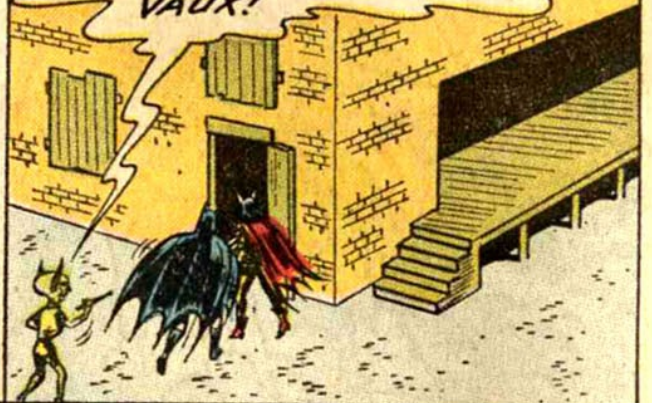
TRYING AGAIN, **KARN** TURNS ON THE POWER OF HIS **DIMENSION-TELEPORTER**, BUT...

FOR SOME REASON, IT FAILS TO TRANSMIT YOU TWO! BUT I CAN'T WASTE TIME PUZZLING IT OUT NOW! I HAVE A MISSION TO COMPLETE!



IN THEIR STRANGELY WEAKENED CONDITION, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE UNABLE TO RESIST **KARN**...

JUST TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU CANNOT ESCAPE AND INTERFERE AGAIN, I'LL LOCK YOU IN A ROOM--WHILE I RAID YOUR WORLD FOR MORE **VAUX**!



SHORTLY...

I HAVE THE STRANGEST SENSATION! I FEEL **INCOMPLETE**--AS IF PART OF ME IS MISSING!

SOMEHOW I--I SENSE I'VE **SPLIT INTO TWO BEINGS**!

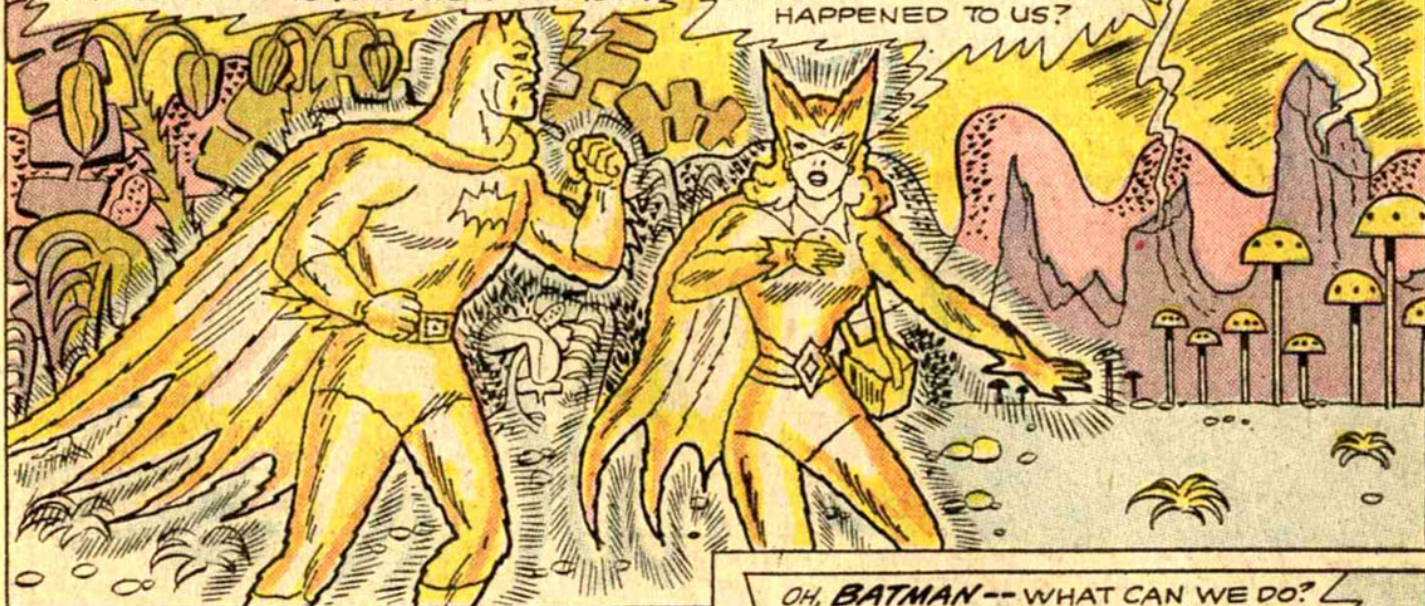
YES! AND SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT OUR **OTHER SELVES** ARE **ELSEWHERE**--ON SOME **STRANGE WORLD**!



AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ON A LAND BEYOND EARTH'S SPACE AND TIME...

WH-WHAT? SOMEHOW WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO **ANOTHER WORLD!**

BATMAN! OUR FORMS HAVE CHANGED! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?



GREAT SCOTT! WE'VE BECOME **PURE ENERGY!** IN SOME FREAKISH WAY, THE ALIEN'S MACHINE FREED THE **ENERGY-FORCE** FROM OUR BODIES--AND TRANSMITTED US HERE! EACH OF US HAS SPLIT INTO **TWO BEINGS!**

TH-THEN THAT MEANS OUR BODIES--OUR FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES, ARE BACK ON **EARTH!**



OH, **BATMAN**-- WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE STRANDED ON A STRANGE WORLD! HOW CAN WE EVER GET BACK TO MERGE WITH OUR BODIES FAR AWAY ON EARTH?

I-- I DON'T KNOW!



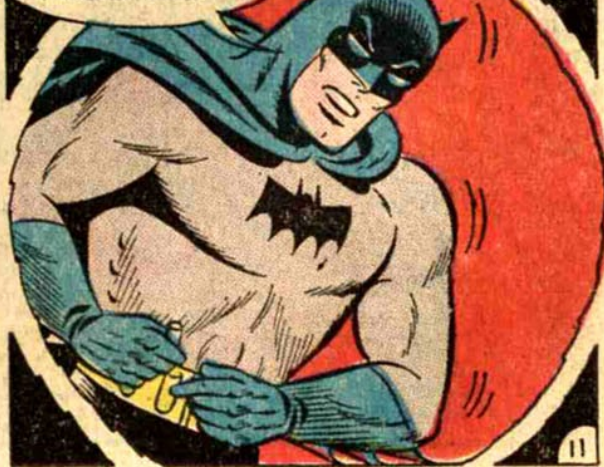
AND ON EARTH...

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- WARN THE AUTHORITIES...

UH-HH! NO USE! CAN'T BUDGE THE DOOR! ALL MY STRENGTH IS GONE ...



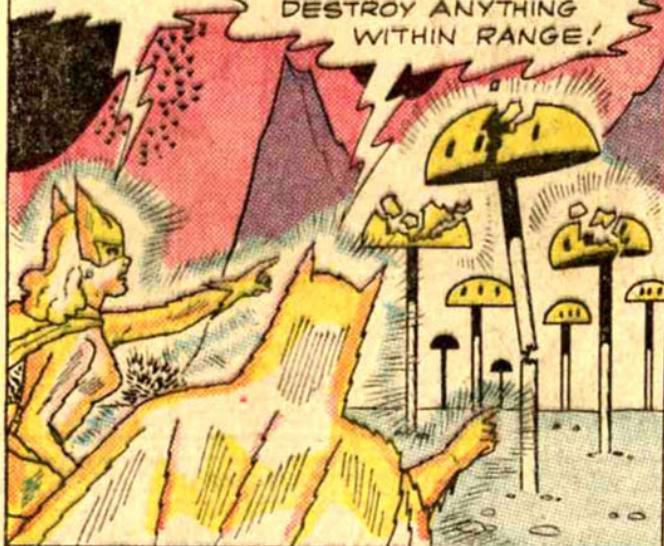
WAIT! THE ALIEN DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MY **UTILITY-BELT!** THIS VIAL OF ACID WILL DISSOLVE THE LOCK AND FREE US!



MEANWHILE, HOPING TO FIND HELP, THE ENERGY FORMS OF **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** MOVE TOWARD THE ALIEN CITY, BUT...

BATMAN, THE BUILDINGS ARE SHATTERING!

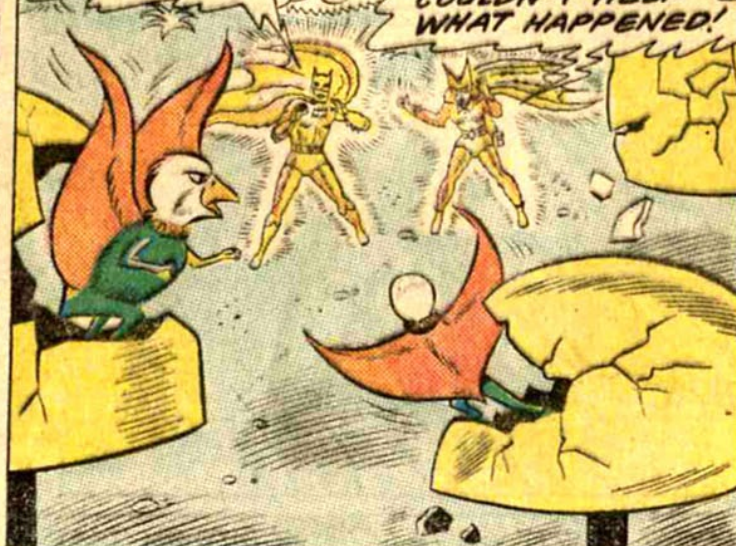
WE'RE THE CAUSE! OUR ENERGY-FORMS ARE EMITTING POWERFUL PULSES OF FORCE THAT DESTROY ANYTHING WITHIN RANGE!



HORRIFIED BY THE CHAOS THEY HAVE UNWITTINGLY CAUSED, THE TWO **ENERGY-BEINGS** HASTILY RETREAT...

THE WINGED PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD! THEY THINK WE'RE INVADERS!

WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND! PLEASE, WE MEAN NO HARM! WE COULDN'T HELP WHAT HAPPENED!



IT'S NO USE! THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND US!



SOLDIERS COMING! LET'S GET AWAY BEFORE WE'RE FORCED INTO A FIGHT AND OUR ENERGY BEAMS HURT THEM!

SEEKING REFUGE, **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE NEARBY WOODS, BUT...

GOOD HEAVENS!

OUR PULSES OF FORCE ARE SMASHING DOWN EVERYTHING AROUND US!



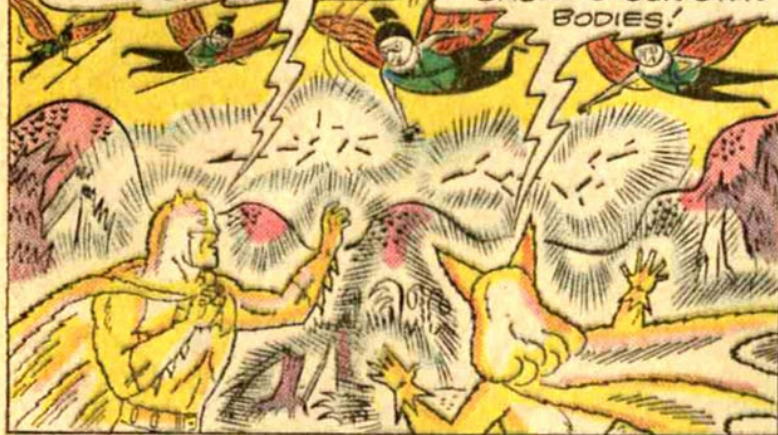
NO USE! WE CAN'T HIDE! INSTEAD, WE'VE ACTUALLY LEFT A TRAIL FOR THEM TO SIGHT FROM ABOVE!



WARILY, THE WINGED PEOPLE KEEP BEYOND RANGE OF THE FORCE-PULSES--AND LAUNCH AN AERIAL ATTACK!

WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH! OUR AURAS OF FORCE ARE SHATTERING THEIR SPEARS!

OH, WHY CAN'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT ALL WE WANT TO DO IS FIND A WAY BACK TO OUR OWN BODIES!



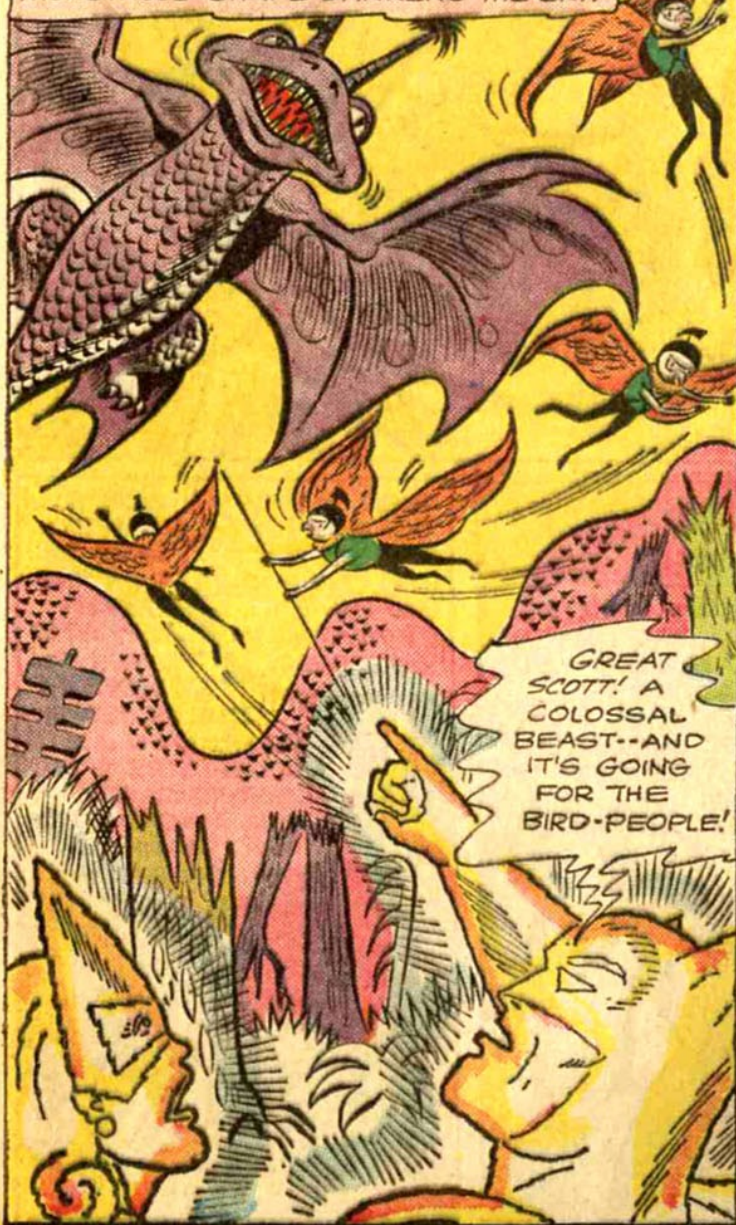
AND ON EARTH...

THE **TELEPORTER!** PERHAPS ITS POWER CAN PULL OUR ENERGY-SELVES BACK INTO OUR BODIES!

YOU'RE FORGETTING--WHEN THE ALIEN TURNED ITS POWER ON US A SECOND TIME, NOTHING HAPPENED! FIRST, WE MUST FIGURE OUT WHY IT WORKED ONLY ON **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL**--AND NOT ON US!



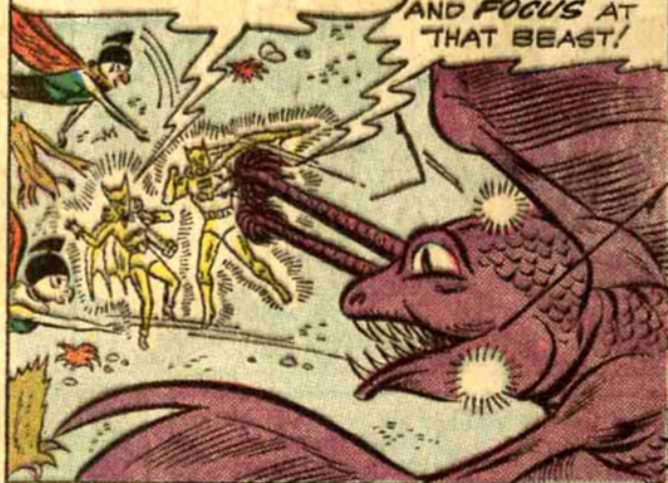
MEANWHILE, IN THE OTHER WORLD--A MONSTROUS SHAPE DARKENS THE SKY!



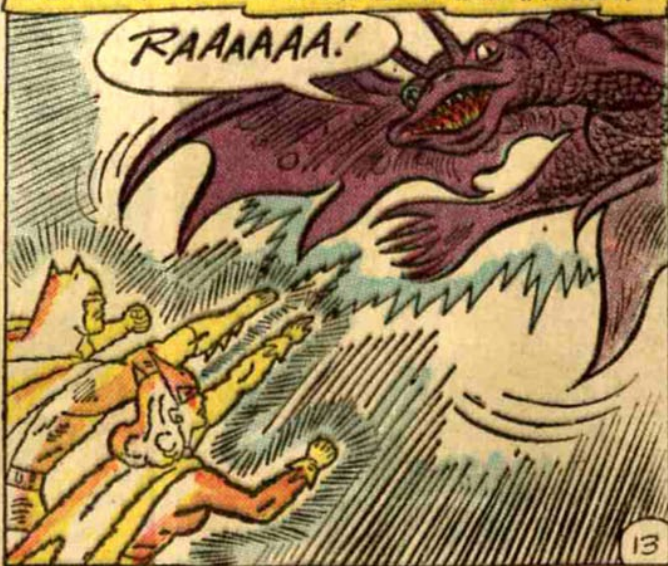
GREAT SCOTT! A COLOSSAL BEAST--AND IT'S GOING FOR THE BIRD-PEOPLE!

THEIR SPEARS ONLY BOUNCE OFF THAT BEAST'S HIDE! **BATMAN**, SOMEHOW WE'VE GOT TO HELP THOSE BRAVE BEINGS!

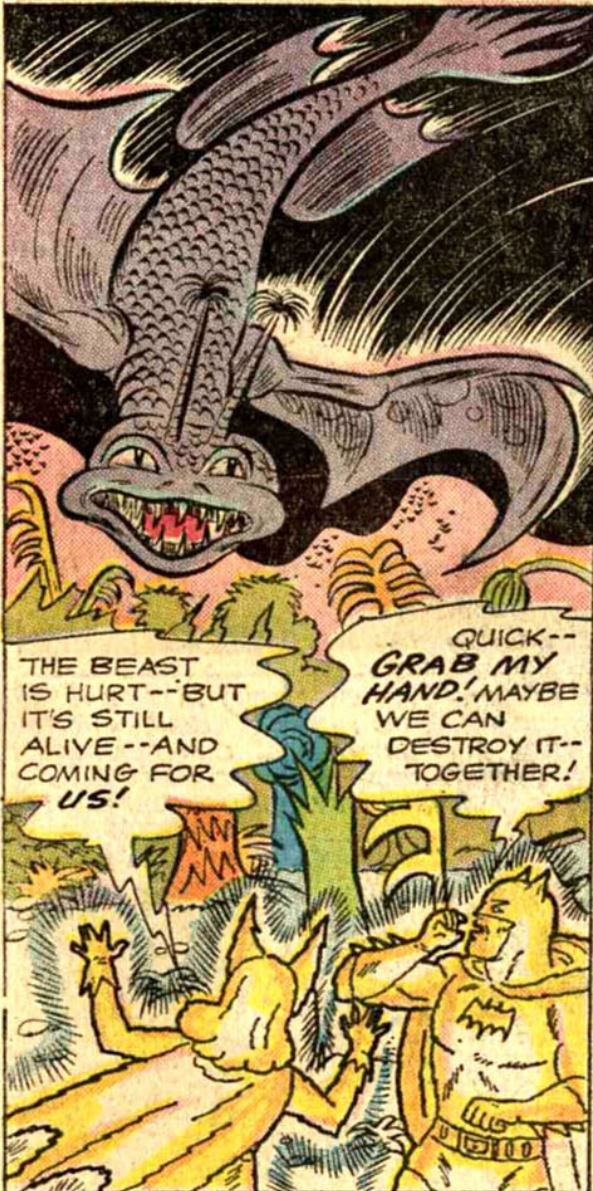
MAYBE IF WE CONCENTRATE OUR THOUGHTS, WE CAN CONTROL OUR ENERGIES--AND **FOCUS** AT THAT BEAST!



THE STRATEGY WORKS--AND TWO LENGTHENING BEAMS OF FORCE STRIKE THEIR TARGET!



RAAAAAA!



THE BEAST IS HURT--BUT IT'S STILL ALIVE--AND COMING FOR US!

QUICK--
GRAB MY HAND! MAYBE WE CAN DESTROY IT-- TOGETHER!

AS THEY GRASP HANDS AND CONCENTRATE, THEIR ENERGIES FLOW TOGETHER LIKE AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT--AND **ONE THUNDERBOLT OF FORCE** STABS AT THE WINGED COLOSSUS!



OUR COMBINED ENERGIES DID IT!

YES--AND NOW THE BIRD-PEOPLE ARE SMILING AT US! NOW THEY KNOW WE'RE THEIR FRIENDS!

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH--**BATMAN** PRODS HIS TRAINED MIND...

NOW I REMEMBER! **WE** WERE STANDING ON A **MANHOLE COVER**--BUT THE YOUNGSTERS WEREN'T! IT WAS THE **STEEL** MANHOLE COVER THAT CAUSED THE FREAK REACTION!



THEN, TO DRAW THE ENERGY--FORCES BACK INTO OUR BODIES, WE HAVE TO REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED!

EXACTLY--BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TURN THE **TELE-PORTER'S** POWER TO **REVERSE!**

COME ON, BETWEEN US, WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO CARRY THIS MACHINE TO THAT MANHOLE COVER!



AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE ALIEN WORLD...

ODD! THE BIRD-PEOPLE ARE BECKONING! THEY SEEM TO BE IMPLORING US TO COME AWAY FROM THE BEAST'S BODY!

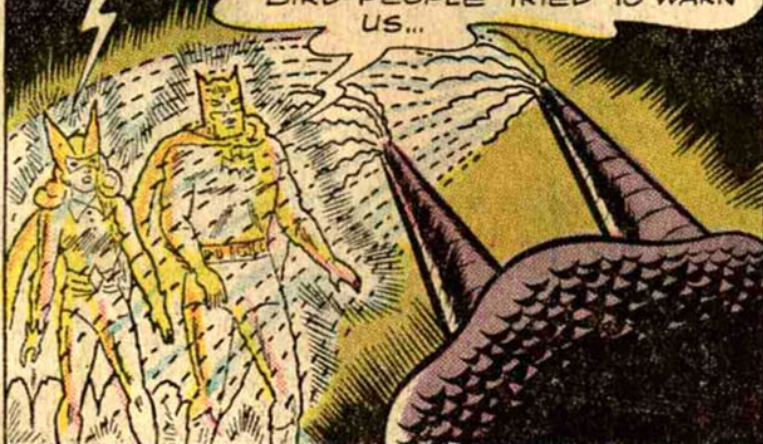
BUT WHY? THE BEAST CAN'T HARM US NOW THAT IT'S DYING!



THEN, SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENS...

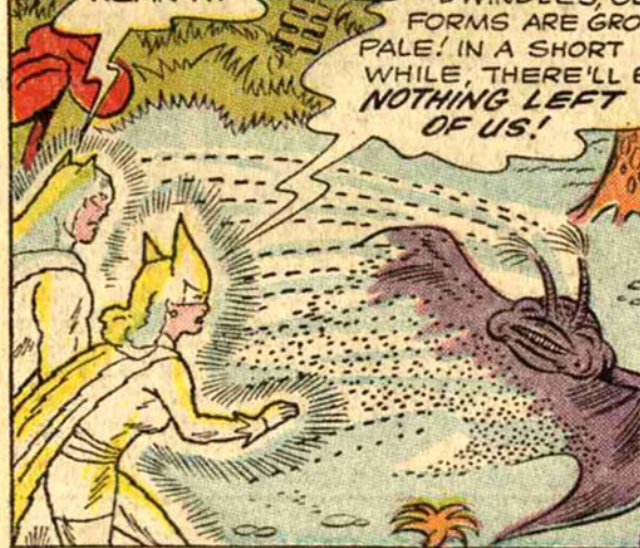
BATMAN--
I--I CAN'T MOVE!

NEITHER CAN I! GREAT SCOTT! OUR ENERGY FORMS ARE IMMOBILIZED BY THAT BEAST! NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE BIRD-PEOPLE TRIED TO WARN US...



APPARENTLY, AS THIS PECULIAR BEAST DIES, ITS BODY ABSORBS ALL ENERGY NEAR IT!

BATMAN!
AS OUR ENERGY DWINDLES, OUR FORMS ARE GROWING PALE! IN A SHORT WHILE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF US!



AND ON EARTH...

NOW WE CAN'T LIFT THE MACHINE! WE'RE EVEN WEAKER THAN BEFORE!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR OTHER SELVES! THEIR ENERGIES ARE EBBING AWAY--AND AS THEY GET WEAKER, SO DO WE!



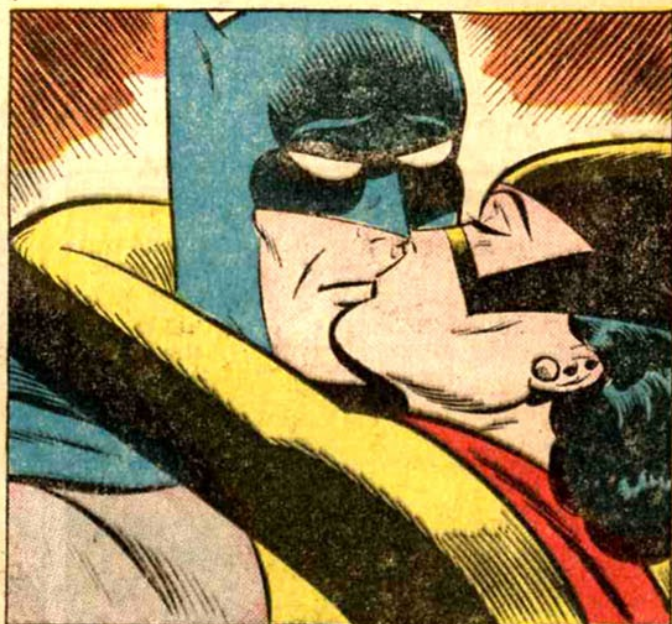
OUR OTHER SELVES ARE OUR LIFE-FORCES! THEY'RE DYING-- AND WHEN THEY ARE DEAD, WE WILL BE DEAD, TOO!

NOW WE CAN NEVER UNITE WITH OUR OTHER SELVES! OH, **BATMAN--**EVERYTHING'S OVER FOR US!

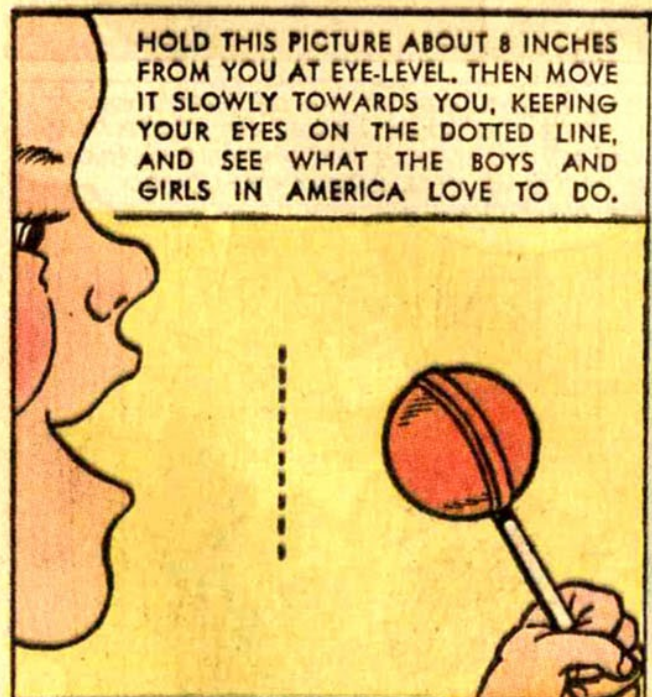


HOLD ME CLOSE! IF I MUST DIE, I WANT IT TO BE IN YOUR ARMS! OH, **BATMAN**, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU--DYING WOULDN'T BE SO BAD, IF I KNEW YOU LOVED ME, TOO...





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CHAPTER 3

BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THE TWIN BEINGS THAT ARE **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** ARE NEAR DEATH-- BUT WHAT OF **BAT-GIRL** AND **ROBIN**? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM? THEY ARE IN YET **ANOTHER** WORLD-- MENACED BY WOULD-BE CONQUERORS! AND ONLY AFTER A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE CAN THE TWO BRAVE YOUNGSTERS UNITE WITH **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** TO DEFEAT THE DANGER FROM THE...

DIMENSION OF DOOM

THERE THEY ARE! WE'VE GOT THEM TRAPPED!

WE'VE GOT JUST ONE CHANCE, **BAT-GIRL**! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!



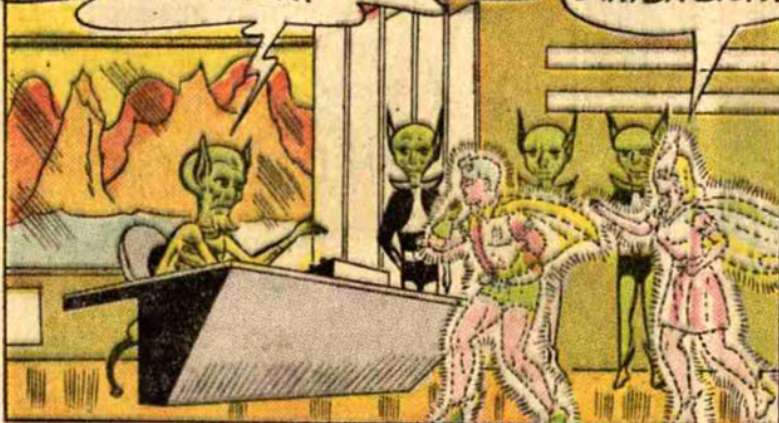
MEANWHILE--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO **BAT-GIRL** AND **ROBIN**?

TWO STRANGE BEINGS--MATERIALIZING! OBVIOUSLY KARN TELEPORTED THEM TO OUR DIMENSION--TO KEEP THEM FROM INTERFERING WITH HIS SEARCH FOR **VAUX**!

ROBIN--DID YOU HEAR? THIS IS THE **ALIEN'S DIMENSION**!

WHO ARE YOU? WE KNOW KARN IS AFTER **VAUX**--OR **SILVER**, AS WE CALL IT-- BUT WHY?

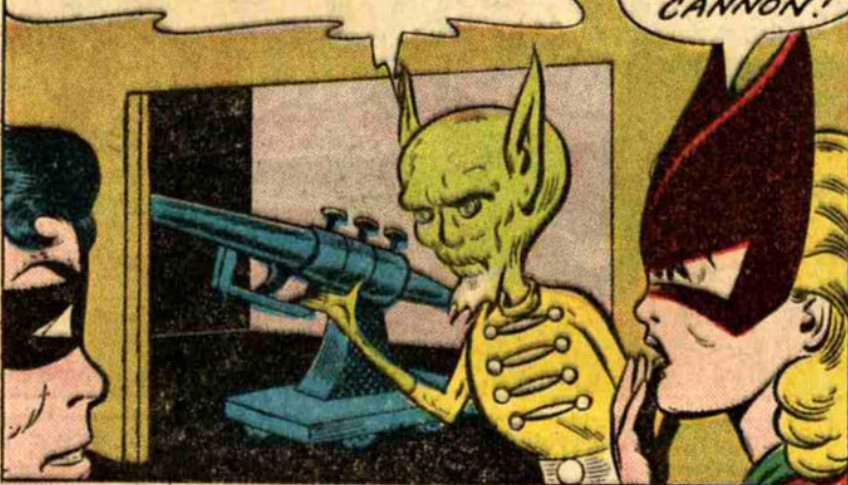
I AM **ZEBO**--A SCIENTIST! IT IS I WHO INVENTED THE DIMENSIONAL-TELEPORTER AND THE HAND-WEAPON YOU UNDOUBTEDLY SAW KARN USE!



VAUX IS VERY RARE IN OUR WORLD--BUT ONLY **VAUX** CAN POWER THE HAND-WEAPON I INVENTED! LUCKILY I HAD TO SEND HIM INTO YOUR DIMENSION TO SEARCH FOR MORE TO BE ABLE TO POWER **THIS**!

A REPLICA OF KARN'S WEAPON--BUT IT'S AS BIG AS A CANNON!

MY SECRET WEAPON! WAR HAS BEEN OUTLAWED IN OUR WORLD FOR CENTURIES, SO THE PRESIDENT'S ARMY HAS ONLY TOKEN WEAPONS! WHEN KARN BRINGS **VAUX** BACK TO POWER MY **DISINTEGRATOR-CANNON**, I'LL DESTROY THE PRESIDENT'S MEAGER ARMY--AND MAKE MYSELF **DICTATOR**!



UHH...WOULD ANYONE MIND IF I PUT ON A LITTLE LIPSTICK?

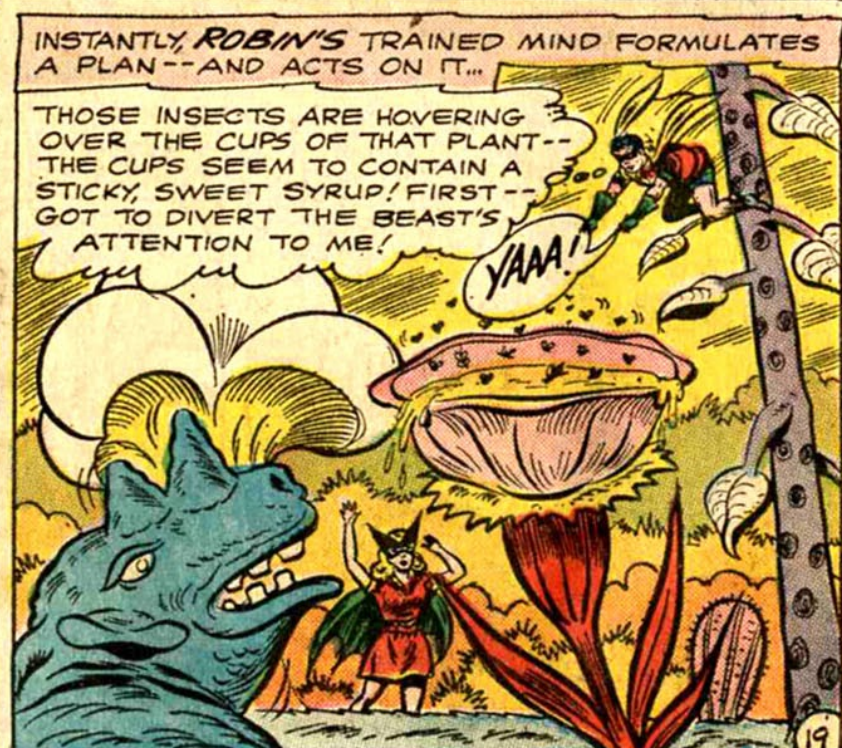
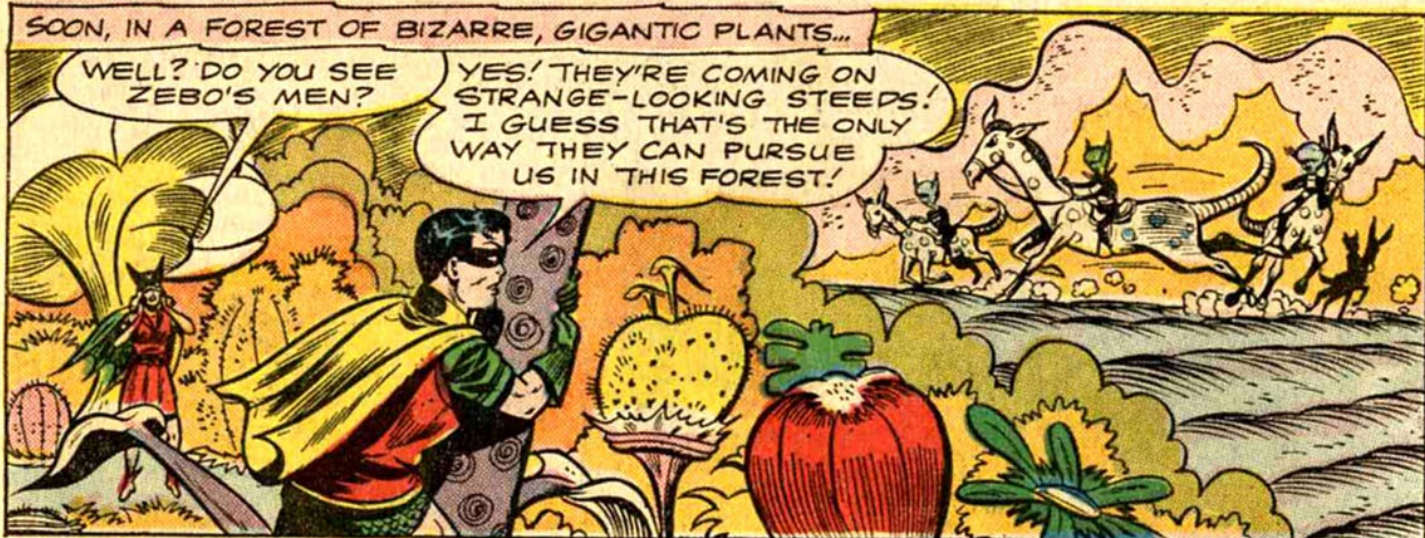
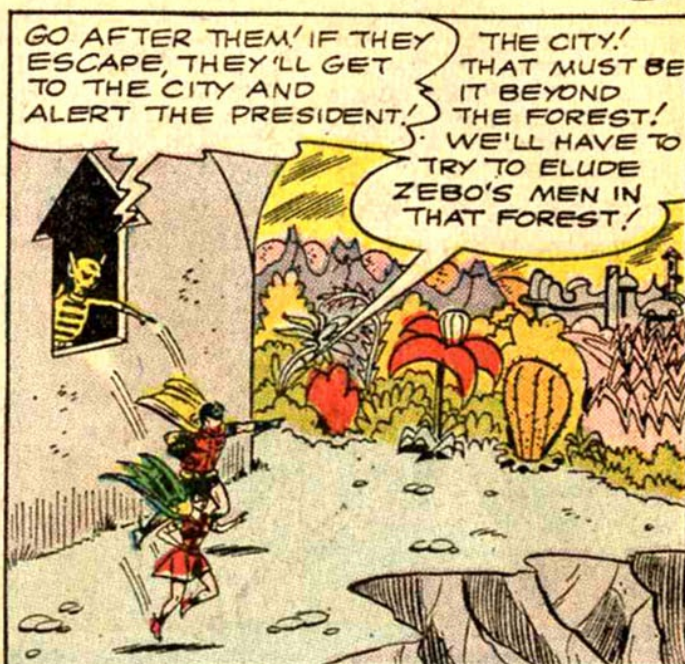
HA, HA! A FEMALE IS THE SAME IN ANY WORLD! WHEN FACING A PROBLEM, SHE ALWAYS RESORTS TO POWDERING HER NOSE OR PUTTING ON FRESH LIPSTICK!

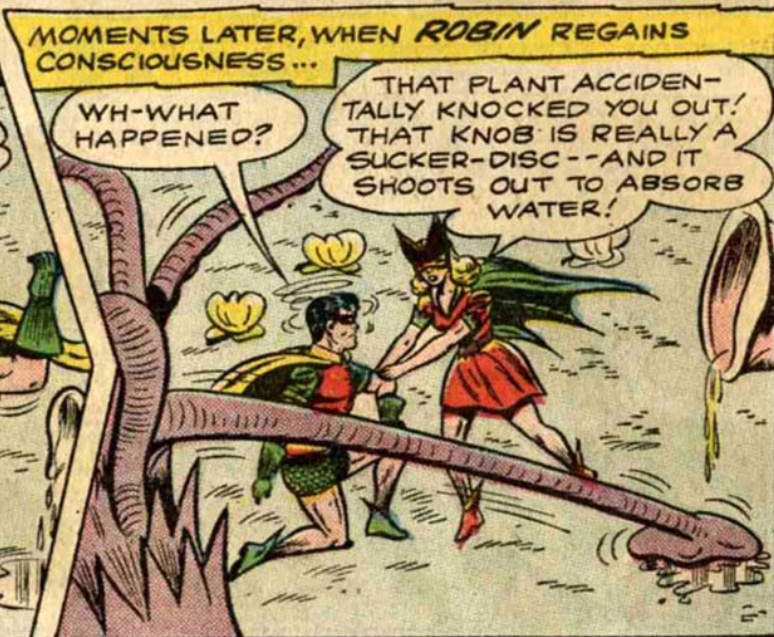
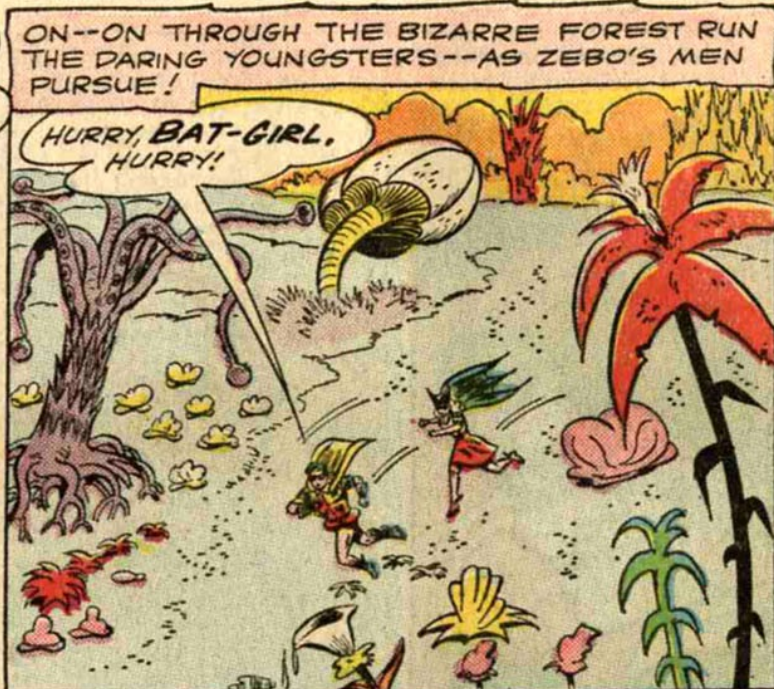
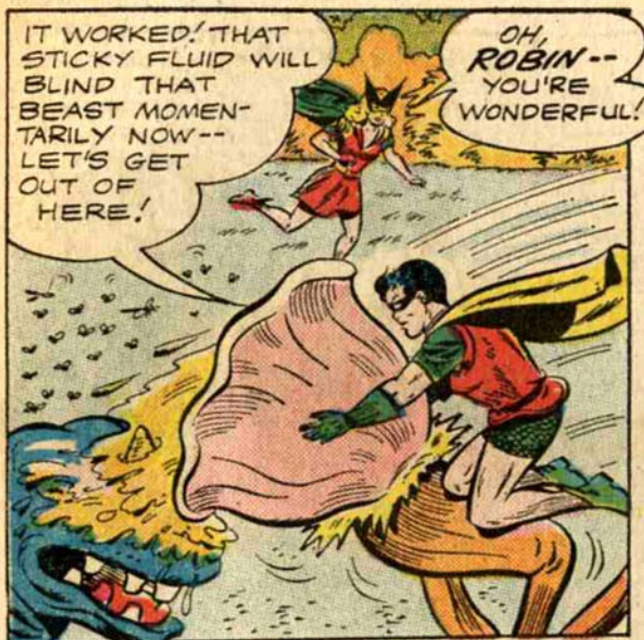
BUT THE "LIPSTICK" FROM **BAT-GIRL'S CRIME-COMPACT** IS GIMMICKED--AND AS SHE PRESSES A SECRET TRIGGER...

ROBIN! DUCK!

WHAT...? IT'S SHOOTING OUT TENDRILS OF WIRE--ENTANGLING US!







HOOF BEATS! ZEBOS
MEN ARE GETTING
CLOSER!

**CLOP
CLOP
CLOP**



RUSHING ONWARD, THEY
SUDDENLY COME UPON A
GLITTERING EXPANSE...

A FIELD OF
MICA CRYSTALS!
THAT STUFF IS
AS SLIPPERY
AS SNOW!

SAY--IF WE
COULD
TOBOGGAN
DOWN THAT
MICA, WE'D
MAKE BETTER
TIME THAN IF WE
RAN DOWN THE
SLOPE THROUGH
THE FOREST!



MINUTES LATER...

NOT BAD, EH? THESE BIG
LEAVES MAKE GREAT
SLEDS!



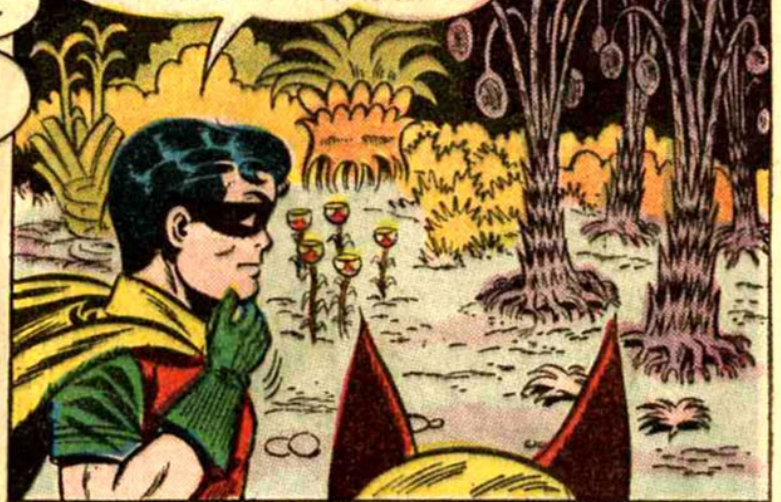
BUT SHORTLY AFTER...

**CLOP
CLOP
CLOP**

OH, NO! A
LAKE! WE
COULD NEVER SWIM
ACROSS FAST ENOUGH--
AND IF WE CIRCLE
AROUND IT THROUGH
THE FOREST, ZEBOS'
MEN WILL CATCH UP
TO US!



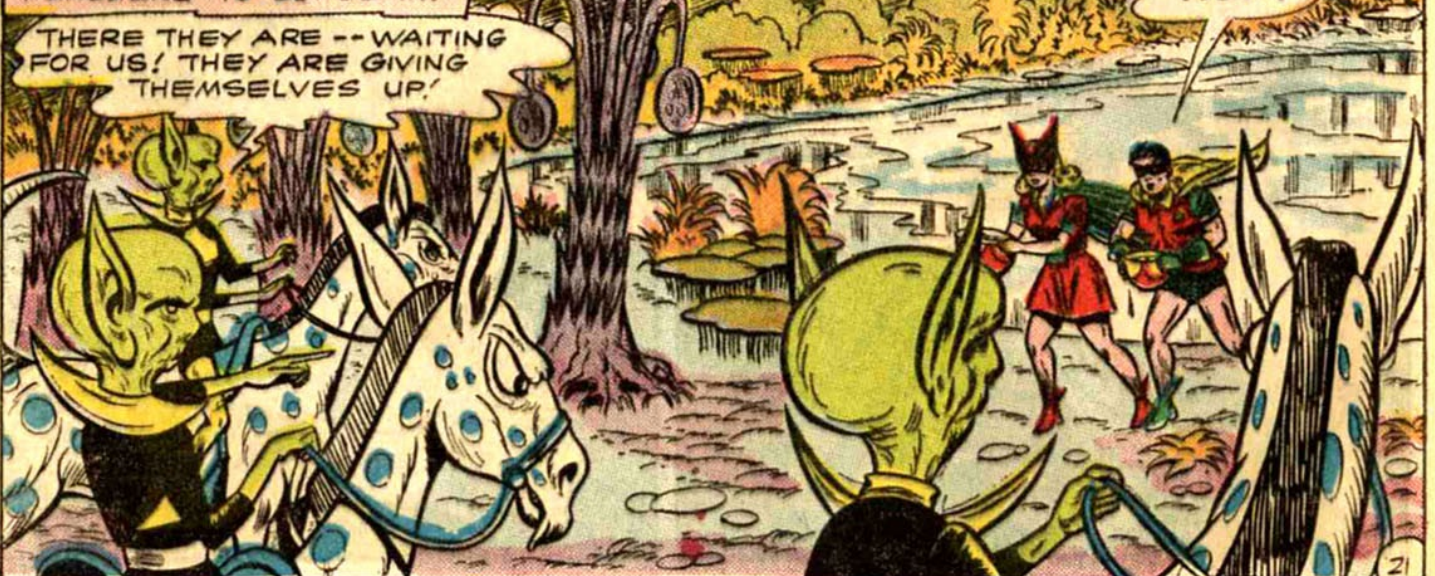
HMM! A LAKE IN FRONT--AND THOSE
WATER-SUCKING PLANTS BEHIND US!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA...



THE YOUNGSTERS WORK SWIFTLY--THEN WAIT FOR THEIR
PURSUERS TO CLOSE IN!

THERE THEY ARE -- WAITING
FOR US! THEY ARE GIVING
THEMSELVES UP!

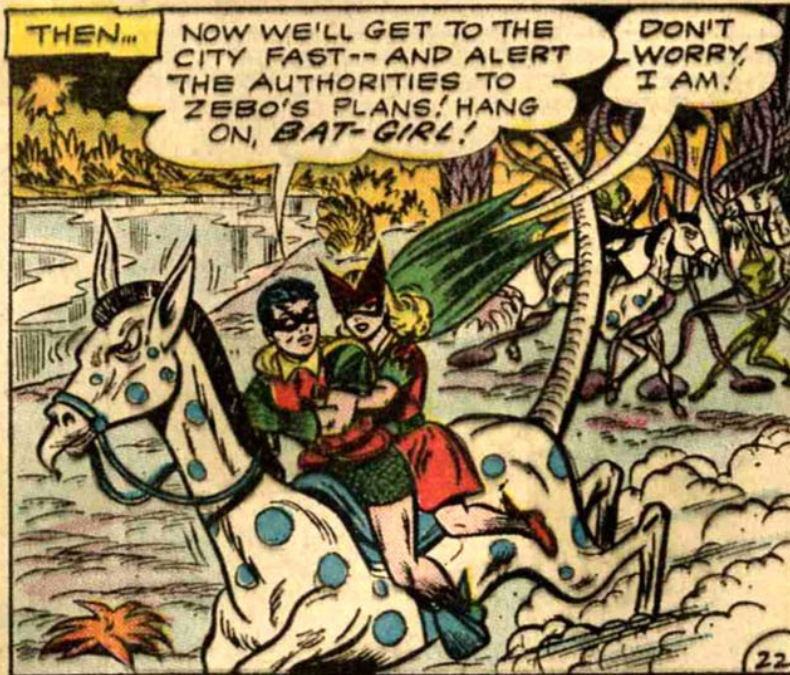
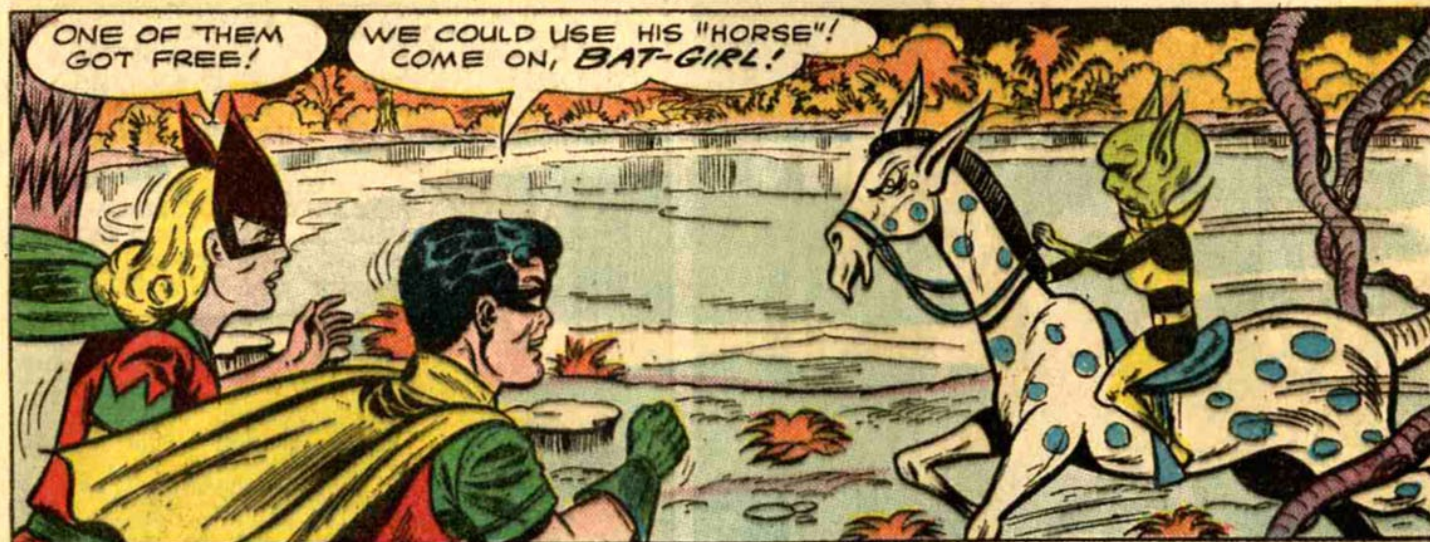
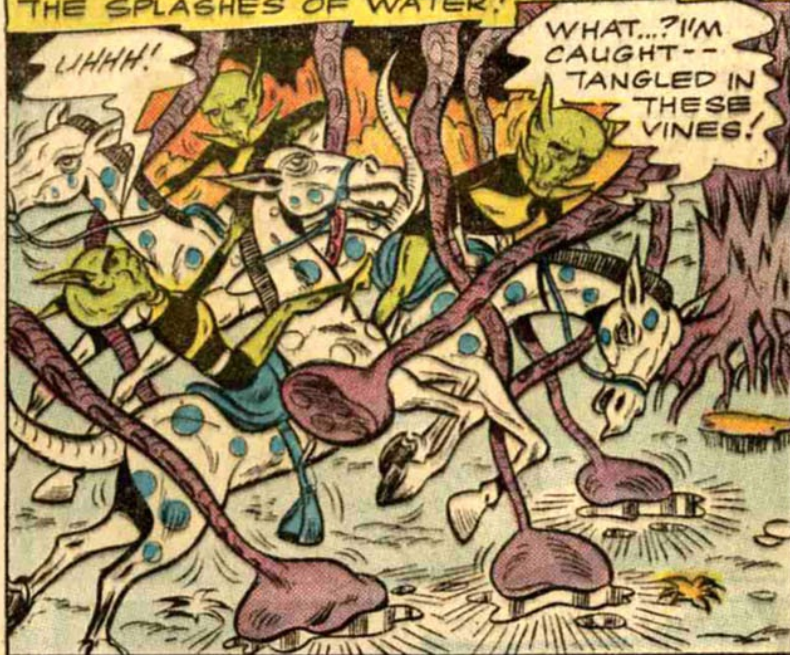
OKAY, BAT-GIRL--
NOW!

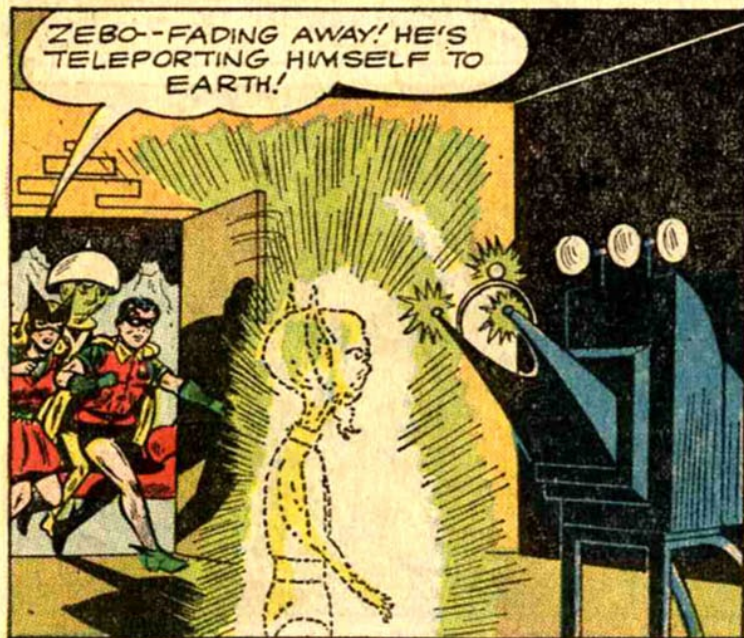
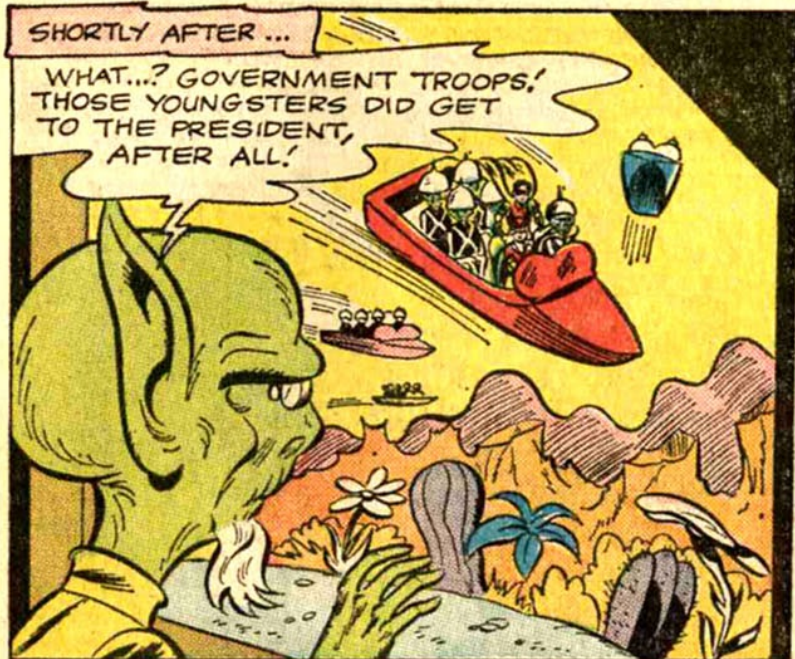


INSTANTLY THE YOUNGSTERS HURL WATER-FILLED PLANT CUPS FORWARD...



...AND THE GREEDY SUCKER-DISCS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GROVE, SHOOT OUT TOWARD THE SPLASHES OF WATER!





AS ZEBO EXPLAINS, SUDDENLY...

LOOK! THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE! **DISINTEGRATE THEM!**

GLADLY! PREVIOUSLY, I WANTED TO CONSERVE THE WEAPON'S POWER, AND THEREFORE WAS MERCIFUL--BUT NOW I WILL TURN IT TO **FULL POWER!**



AT THAT INSTANT, HEARING THE MENACING VOICES AROUND THE CORNER--**BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ACT QUICKLY!**

I'VE TURNED THE **TELE-PORTER'S** POWER TO **REVERSE!** LET'S HOPE THE **ENERGY-FORCES** WILL RETURN TO OUR BODIES!

IF NOT, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAVE **BAT-GIRL** AND **ROBIN**--OR OURSELVES!



IN THAT SPLIT-INSTANT, ON THE OTHER WORLD...

BATMAN-- SOME POWER IS **TUGGING** AT ME!

WE'RE SAVED! WE'RE GOING BACK! **WE'RE GOING BACK!**



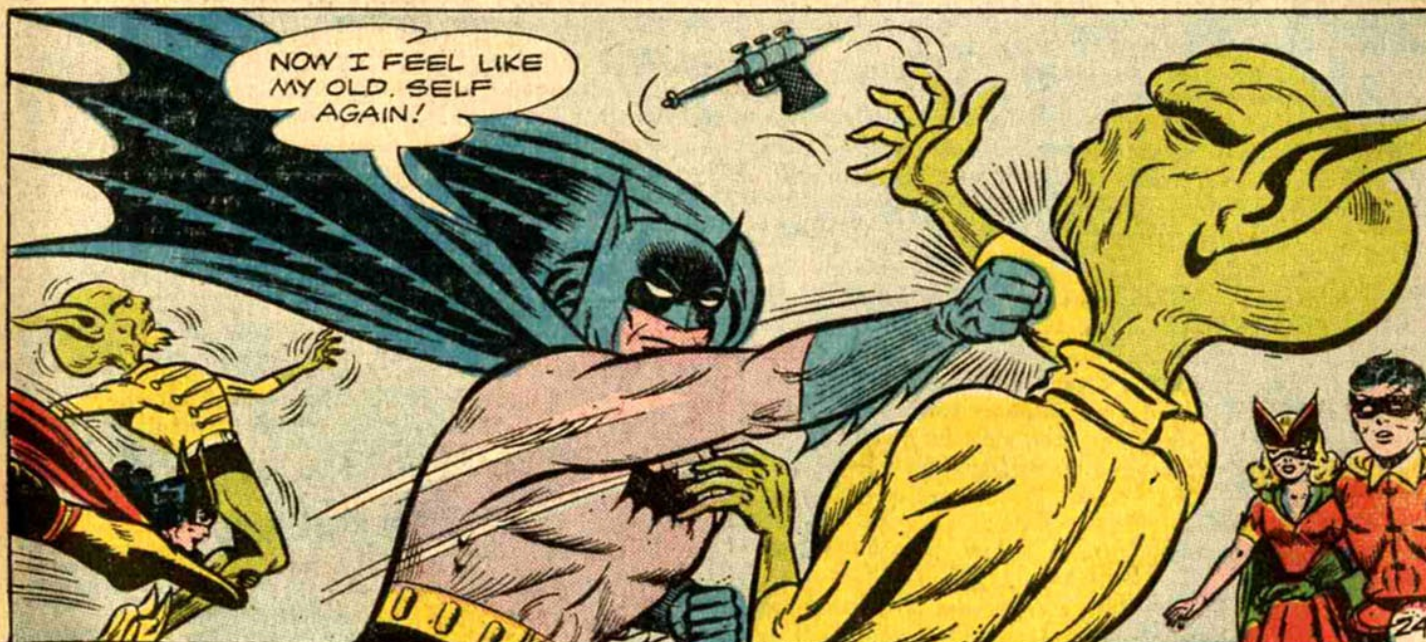
AND, SUDDENLY, ON EARTH, **BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE REVITALIZED--COMPLETE BEINGS AGAIN!**

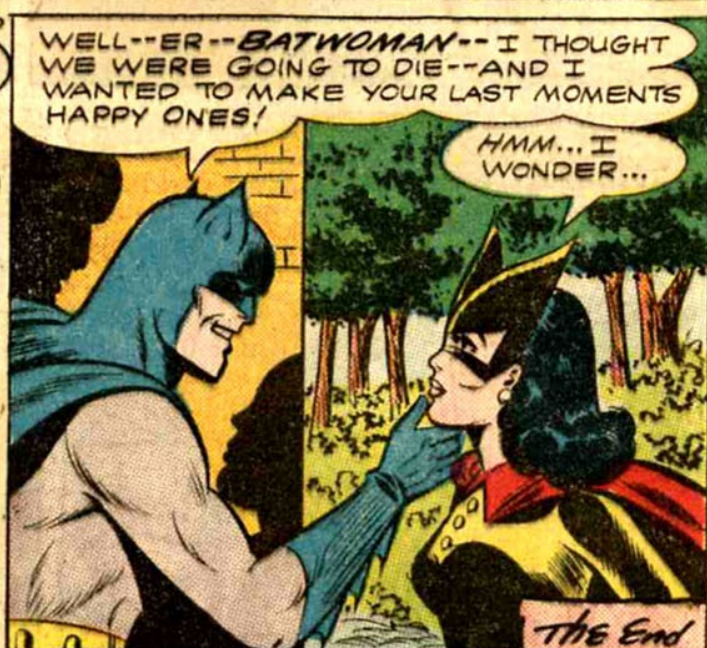
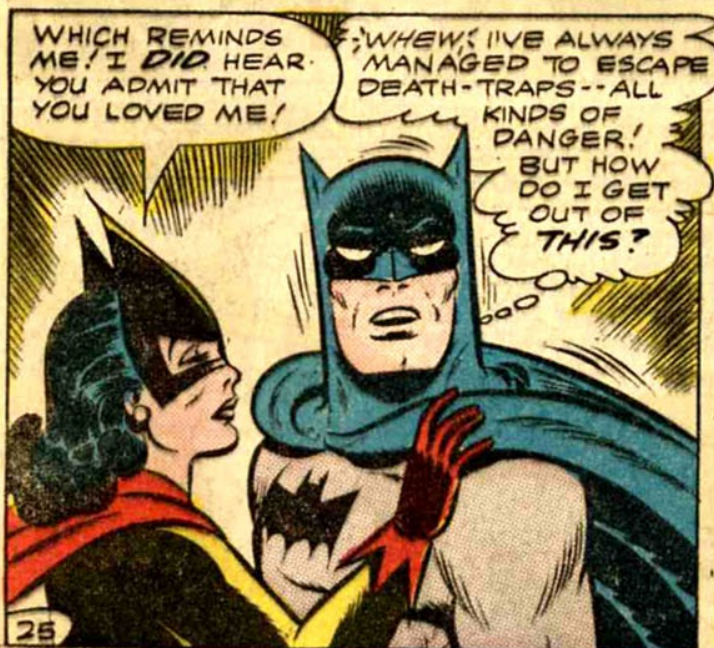
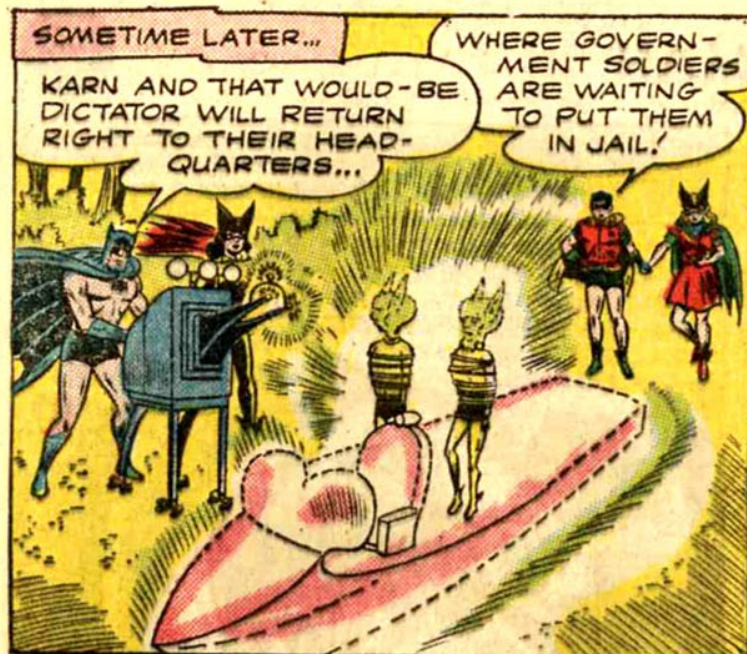
THAT DYING BEAST DRAINED OFF SOME OF OUR NORMAL STRENGTH--BUT WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE THOSE TWO ALIENS!

WHAT...?



NOW I FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF AGAIN!





STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF *BATMAN*, published 8 times yearly at Sparte, Illinois for October 1, 1962.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: 410,000.

J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1962.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public

(My commission expires March 30, 1963)



12¢

BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

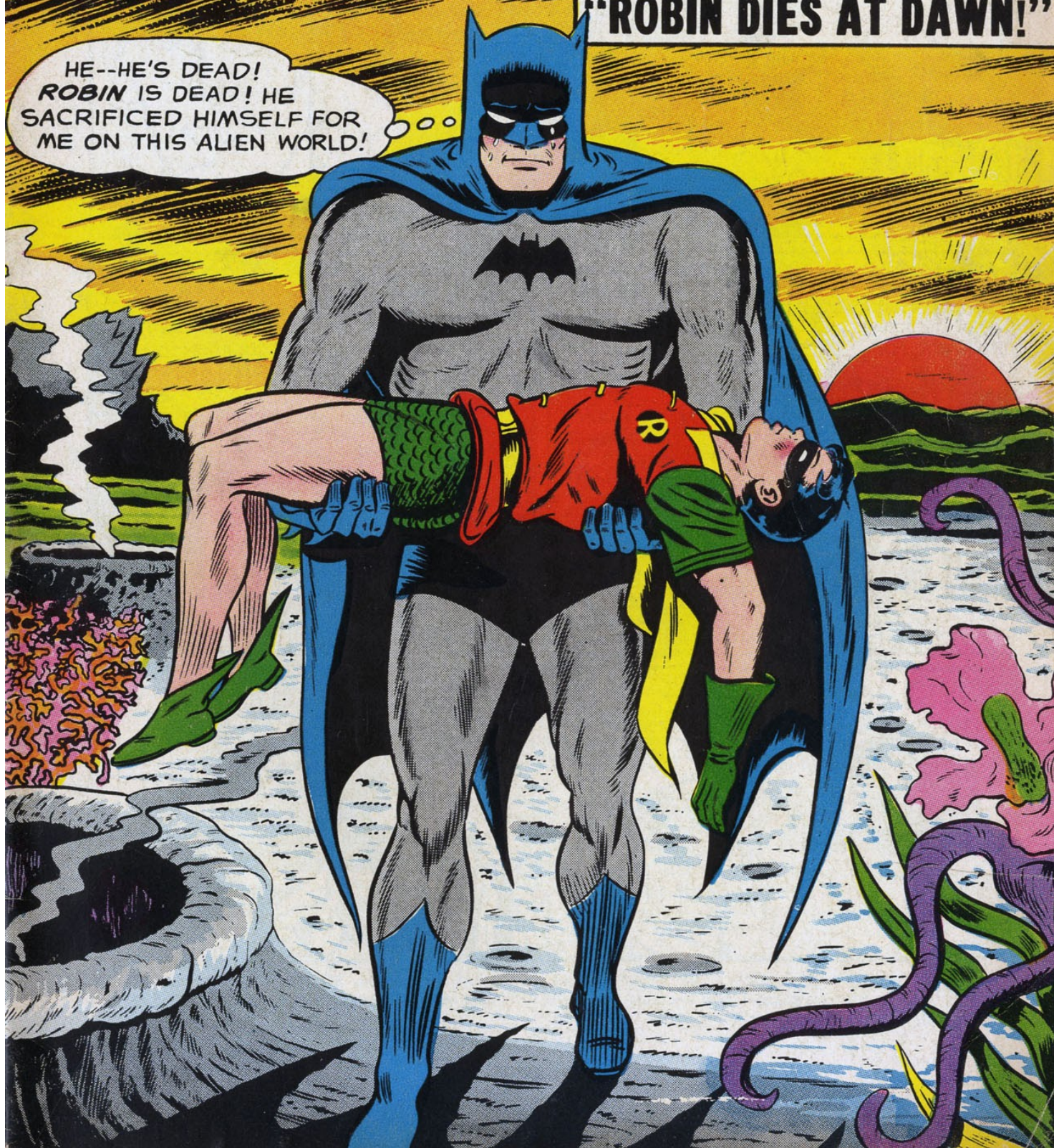


AUTHORITY

JUNE
NO. 156

A sensational 2-part adventure--
"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"

HE--HE'S DEAD!
ROBIN IS DEAD! HE
SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR
ME ON THIS ALIEN WORLD!



BATMAN



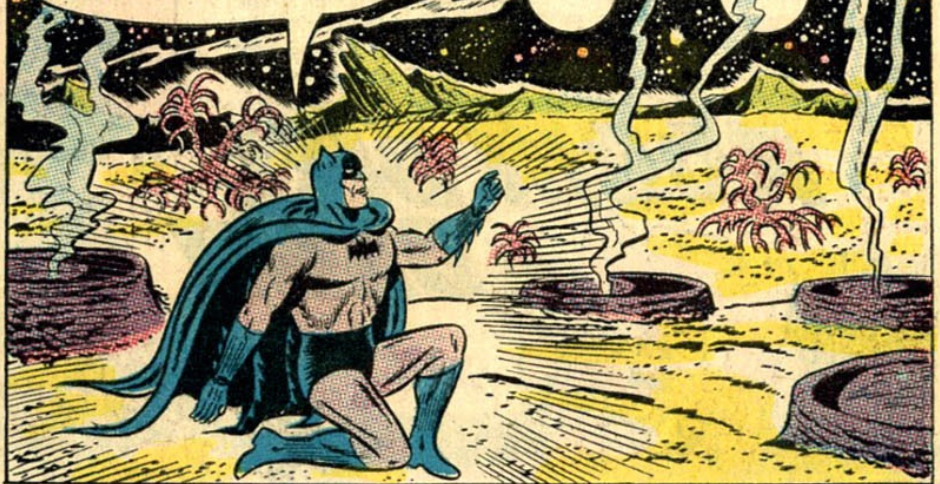
"WHERE IS BATMAN?" ROBIN WONDERS! AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER SOON WONDERS, TOO-- FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS IS A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF!

ALL BATMAN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS BEING SWEEPED ALONG BY SWIRLING LIGHTS THROUGH VAST REACHES OF SPACE...



THEN SAND CRUNCHES UNDER HIS FEET--AND AN UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE ENCIRCLES HIM!

TWIN MOONS! I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET!



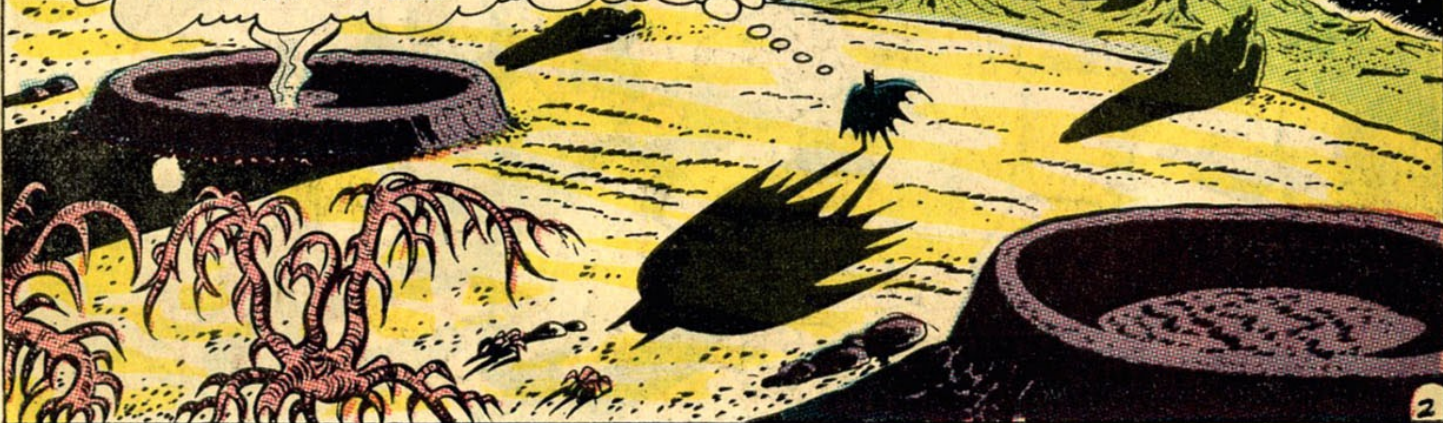
THOSE SWIRLING LIGHTS-- WERE THEY AN ALIEN ENERGY THAT TRANSMITTED ME HERE? I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! MAYBE ALIENS DELIBERATELY ERASED MY MEMORY! BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?

MY UTILITY-BELT IS GONE-- WITH MY BAT-ROPE AND BATARANGS! I'VE BEEN MADE DEFENSELESS-- THRUST ON AN ALIEN WORLD-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!



THEN BATMAN IS TOUCHED BY A TINY FEAR-- THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF ANY MAN WHO IS ISOLATED AND WEAPONLESS-- AND CONFRONTED BY THE UNKNOWN!

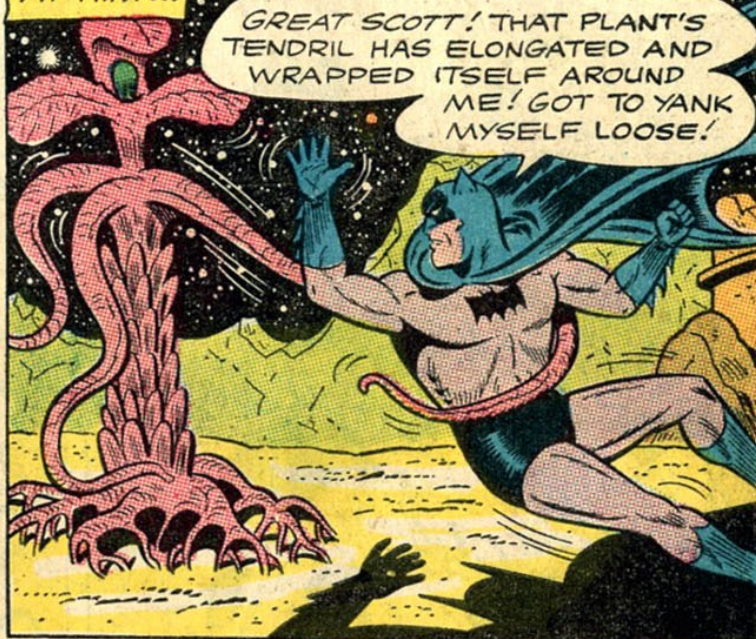
IT'S NOT KNOWING THAT'S SO DISQUIETING! AND SOMEHOW I SENSE TERRIBLE DANGER -- WAITING! I--I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE...



SO, BATMAN TRUDGES ON THROUGH THE ALIEN LAND, UNTIL ...



WITHOUT WARNING, SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT AT HIM...



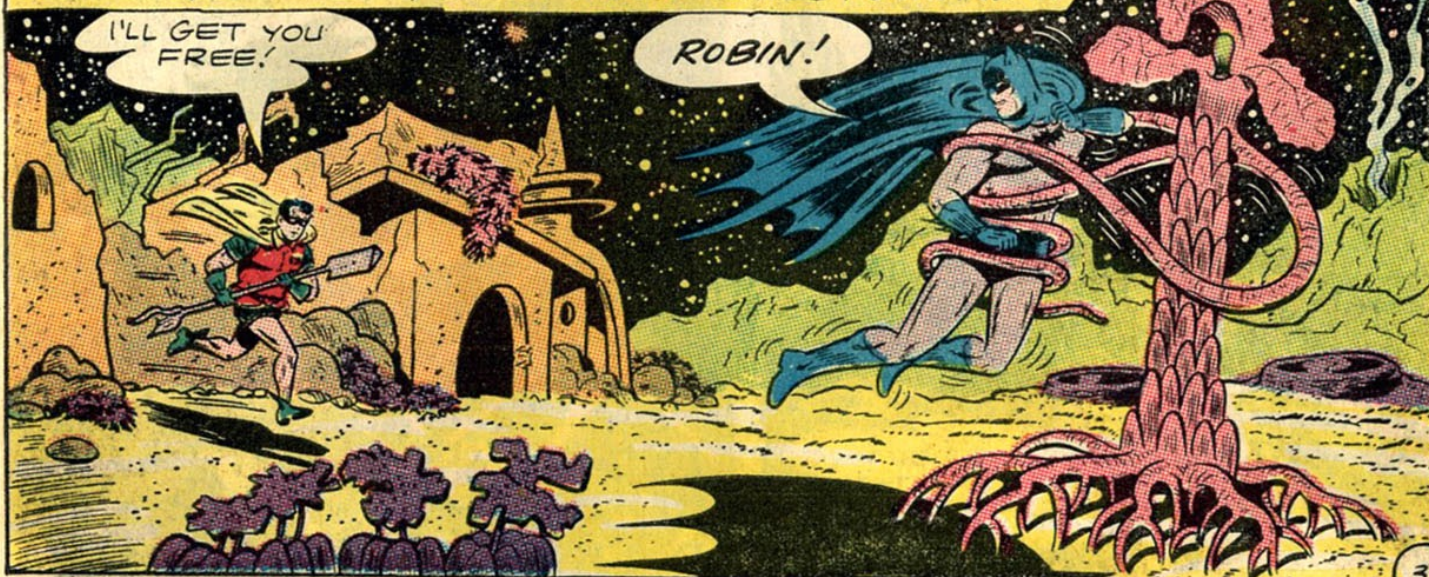
BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE ...



THEN AS THE TERRIBLE PLANT RELENTLESSLY
TIGHTENS ITS GRIP...



SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, STURDY FIGURE RACES FORWARD ...





AS THE STONE COLOSSUS LUMBERS AFTER THEM IN DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF!

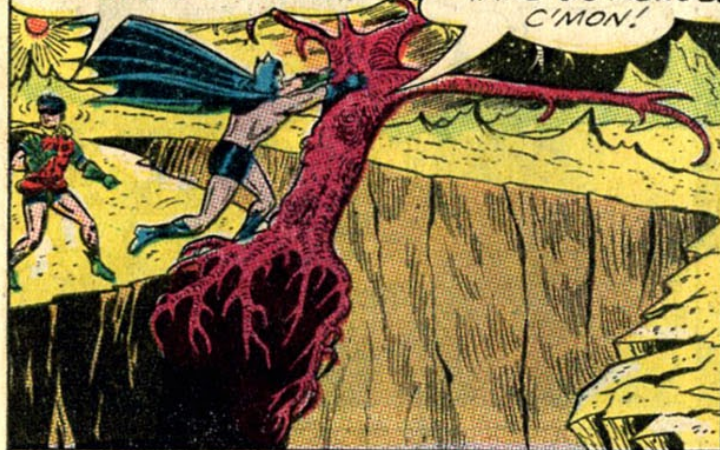
HAND-OVER-HAND, THE FUGITIVES MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE CHASM...

A CHASM--AND THAT STONE MONSTER IS COMING ON FAST!

THAT JUTTING BRANCH WILL TAKE US ACROSS! C'MON!

WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE! THAT GIANT CAN GET ACROSS AT US WITH JUST ONE STEP!

YES--BUT THE LEDGE ON THIS OPPOSITE SIDE IS WEAK! IT WILL CRUMBLE UNDER THE GIANT'S TREMENDOUS WEIGHT--AND SEND HIM PLUNGING INTO THE CHASM!

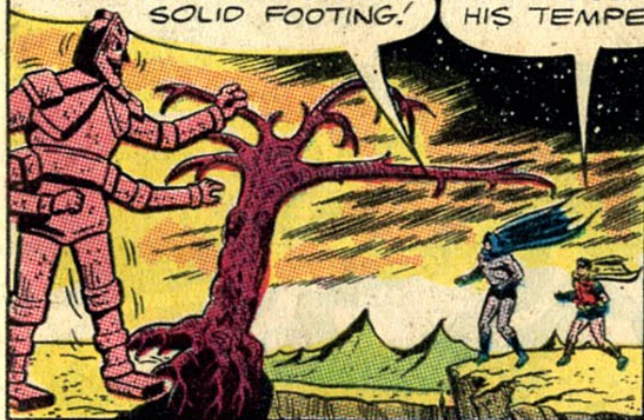


UPON REACHING THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WATCH HOPEFULLY AS THE STONE GIANT APPROACHES...

IN BLIND, UNREASONING FURY, THE GIANT SEIZES A GREAT BOULDER AND STRIDES ACROSS TOWARD HIS PUNY FOE!

LOOK AT THAT CRAFTY GRIN! THE GIANT SUSPECTS OUR RUSE! HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE SOLID FOOTING!

WE'RE FINISHED--UNLESS WE CAN MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!



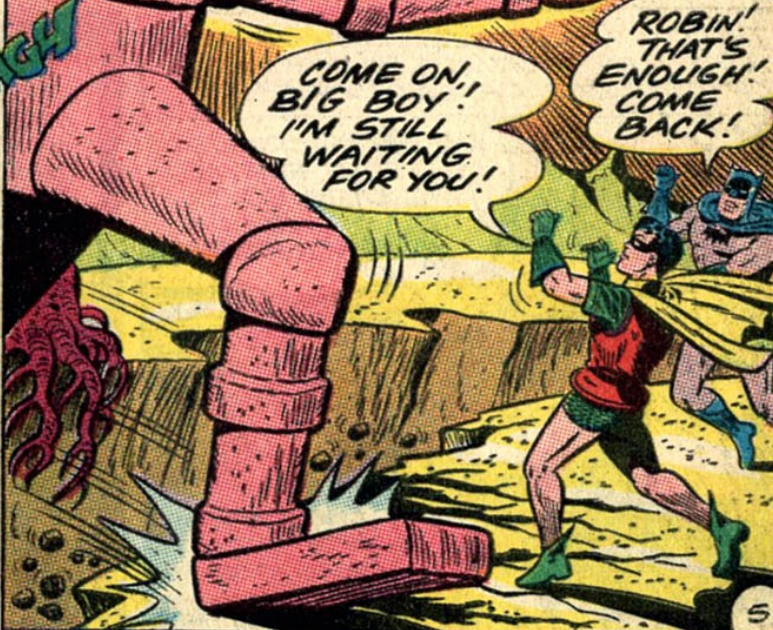
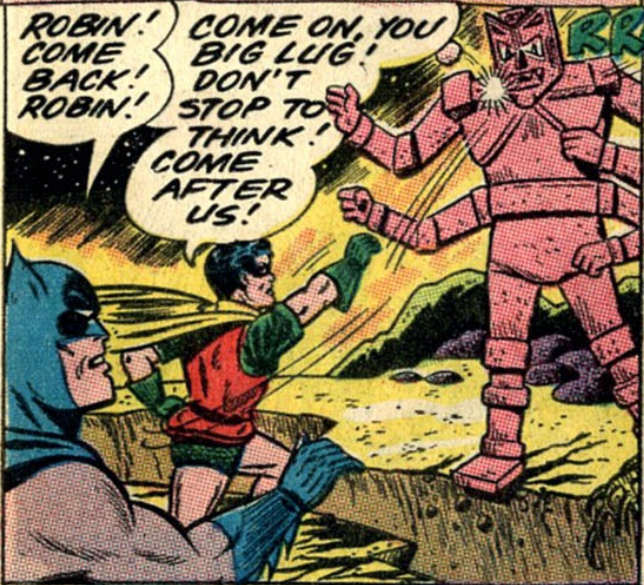
THEN, BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...

ROBIN! COME BACK! COME BACK! COME BACK! COME AFTER US!

COME ON, YOU BIG LUG! DON'T STOP TO THINK! COME AFTER US!

COME ON, BIG BOY! I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU!

ROBIN! THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK!

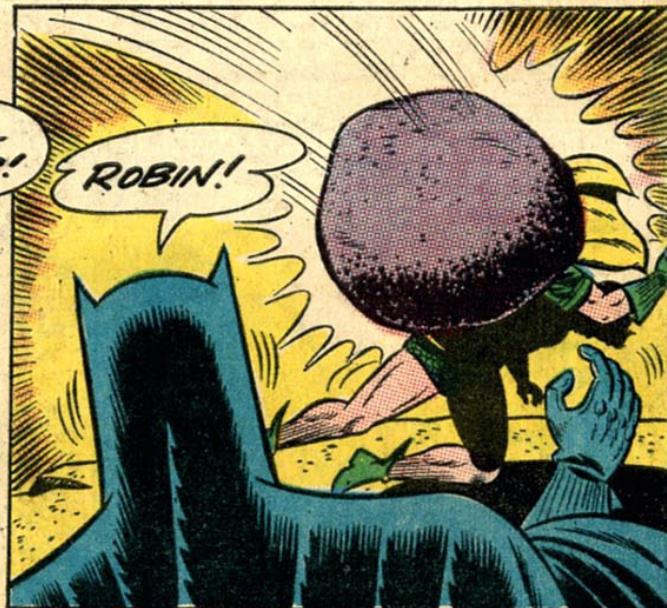


AS THE WEAK LEDGE CRUMBLES UNDER THE GIANT'S COLOSSAL WEIGHT...



ROBIN!
WATCH OUT!--
THAT BOULDER!

UHHH!



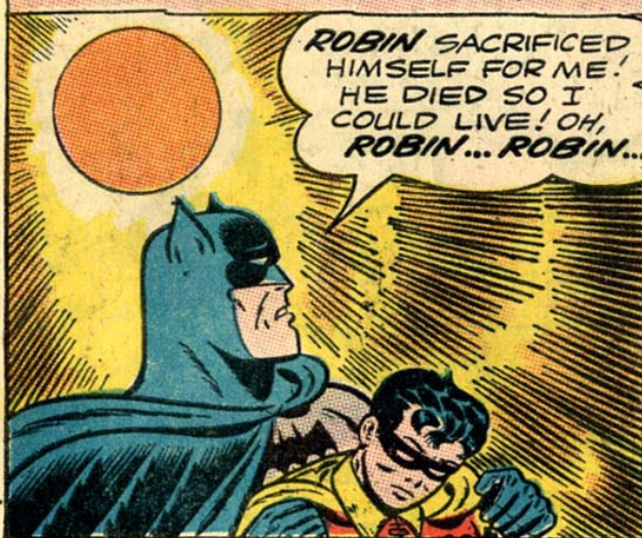
ROBIN!

EVEN AS HE FEELS FOR A PULSE BEAT, **BATMAN** KNOWS IT IS NO USE!



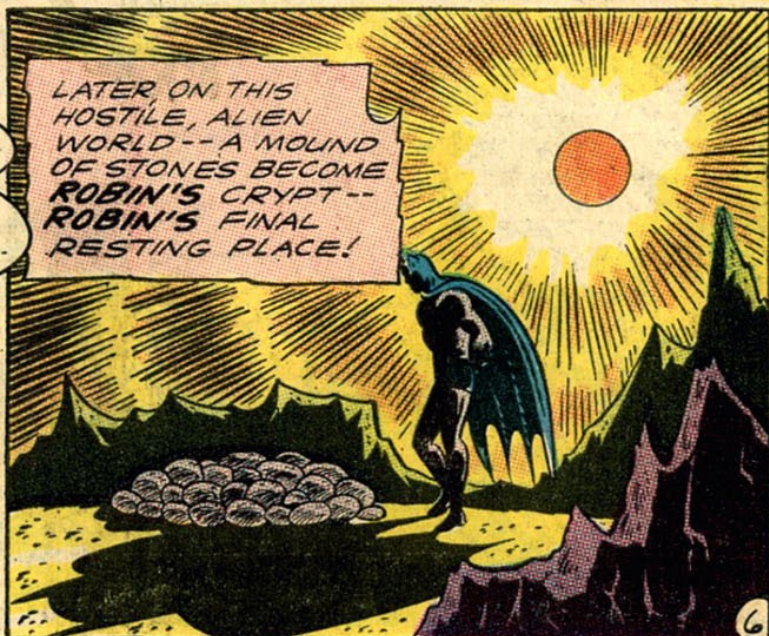
HE--HE'S
DEAD!
**ROBIN'S
DEAD!**

THE DAWN SUN RISES, LOOKING DOWN AT A MAN STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE!

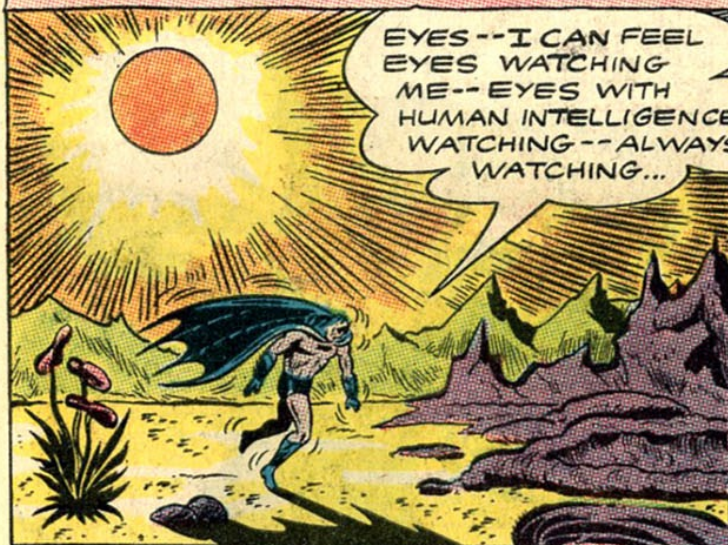


ROBIN SACRIFICED
HIMSELF FOR ME!
HE DIED SO I
COULD LIVE! OH,
ROBIN... ROBIN...

LATER, ON THIS
HOSTILE, ALIEN
WORLD-- A MOUND
OF STONES BECOME
ROBIN'S CRYPT--
ROBIN'S FINAL
RESTING PLACE!



MUCH LATER, WEAKENED BY THIRST--
CRUSHED BY TRAGEDY--A LONE FIGURE
STAGGERS OVER BURNING DESERT SANDS...



EYES--I CAN FEEL
EYES WATCHING
ME--EYES WITH
HUMAN INTELLIGENCE--
WATCHING--ALWAYS
WATCHING...

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE!
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELVES?
**WHY ARE YOU
WATCHING ME?**

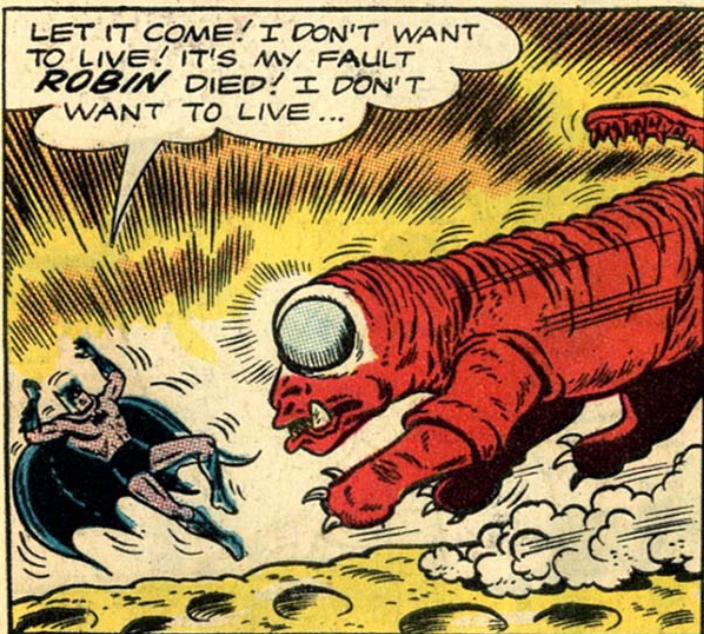


THEN A GREAT BULK HUNCHES UP FROM
THE SANDS ...

A BEAST--AN ALIEN
BEAST! I'M TOO WEAK TO
RUN OR FIGHT IT...

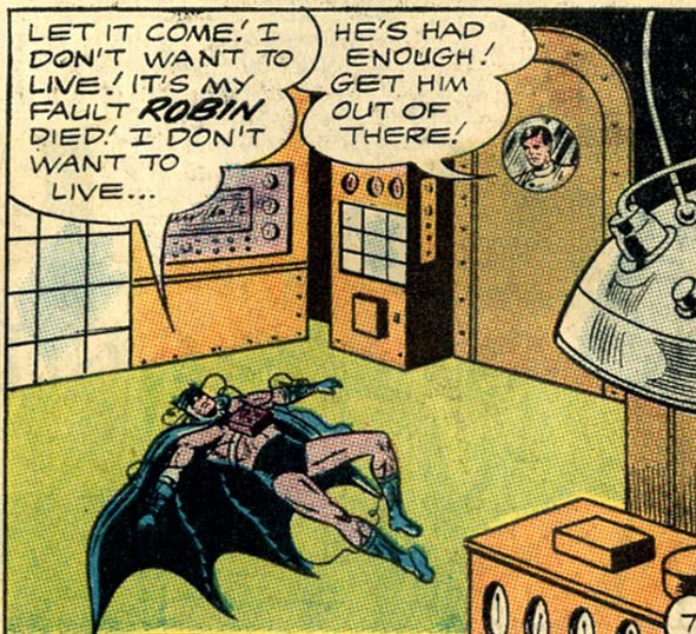


LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT
TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT
ROBIN DIED! I DON'T
WANT TO LIVE...



LET IT COME! I
DON'T WANT TO
LIVE! IT'S MY
FAULT **ROBIN**
DIED! I DON'T
WANT TO
LIVE...

HE'S HAD
ENOUGH!
GET HIM
OUT OF
THERE!



SWIFTLY, A HATCH OPENS--FIGURES HURRY TO BATMAN'S SIDE...



WHAT...?
ROBIN--
ALIVE!
I--I...

EASY, BATMAN--
EVERYTHING'S
UNDER CONTROL!
YOU'RE IN THE
TEST CHAMBER--
REMEMBER?

THE TEST--I REMEMBER
NOW! I DIDN'T WANT YOU
TO WORRY--I LEFT A
LETTER WITH GORDON
FOR YOU--TO BE
GIVEN TO YOU AFTER
TWO DAYS...

YES--I GOT
THE NOTE--
AND I'VE
BEEN COMING
HERE EVERY
DAY SINCE
THEN, TO LOOK
IN ON YOU!



WELL,
DOC--
HOW
DID I
DO?

YOU DID FINE! YOU MADE A
SIMULATED "FLIGHT" INTO
SPACE IN THIS CHAMBER
THAT DUPLICATES CONDITIONS
AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT
UNDERGO IF HE FOUND
HIMSELF **ALONE** ON SUCH
A SPACE FLIGHT!



BATMAN, BY VOLUNTEERING
FOR THIS TEST, YOU'VE MADE
A GREAT CONTRIBUTION
TO **SPACE
MEDICINE!**

YES, INDEED!
THE DATA
COLLECTED
ON THESE
SENSITIVE RECORD-
ING INSTRUMENTS
WILL ENABLE US TO
GAUGE EFFECTS
ON AN ASTRONAUT'S
NERVOUS SYSTEM!



YOUR REACTIONS WILL HELP US
DETERMINE, HOW LONG, AND
WHAT KINDS OF STRAINS AN
ASTRONAUT CAN ENDURE IN
LONELINESS, BEFORE HIS MIND
STARTS IMAGINING
THINGS...



IMAGINING
THINGS... I
HAD AN
HALLUCINATION...

WE GUESSED THAT WHEN WE
HEARD YOU YELLING, YOU CAN
TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW--
BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED
SLEEP!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, AFTER MANY TESTS, **BATMAN** DICTATES HIS HALLUCINATION INTO A TAPE RECORDER...

THOSE EYES I SENSED WATCHING ME-- NOW I REALIZE THEY WERE **YOUR** EYES WATCHING THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW! STRANGE, HOW AFRAID I WAS OF BEING ALONE...

NOT SO STRANGE!...

ONE OF **MAN'S** MOST PRIMITIVE FEARS IS LONELINESS! WHEN A MAN IS ISOLATED TOO LONG, THE MIND PLAYS STRANGE TRICKS... IN YOUR CASE, YOU IMAGINED THAT YOU WERE INDIRECTLY GUILTY OF **ROBIN'S** DEATH... YOUR CONSTANT CONCERN ABOUT THE BOY'S SAFETY CAME TO THE SURFACE IN YOUR HALLUCINATIONS!

LATER, AS **BATMAN** LEAVES FOR HOME...

DOCTOR, YOU LOOK WORRIED...

I AM! **BATMAN'S** A HARDY SPECIMEN, WITH AN ABOVE-AVERAGE MIND-- BUT EVEN A **BATMAN** CAN SUCCUMB TO STRESS AND SHOCK! I JUST HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY AFTER-EFFECTS...

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2

ADVERTISEMENT

GREAT MASTERPIECES



MONA LISA
Leonardo DaVinci
1452-1519

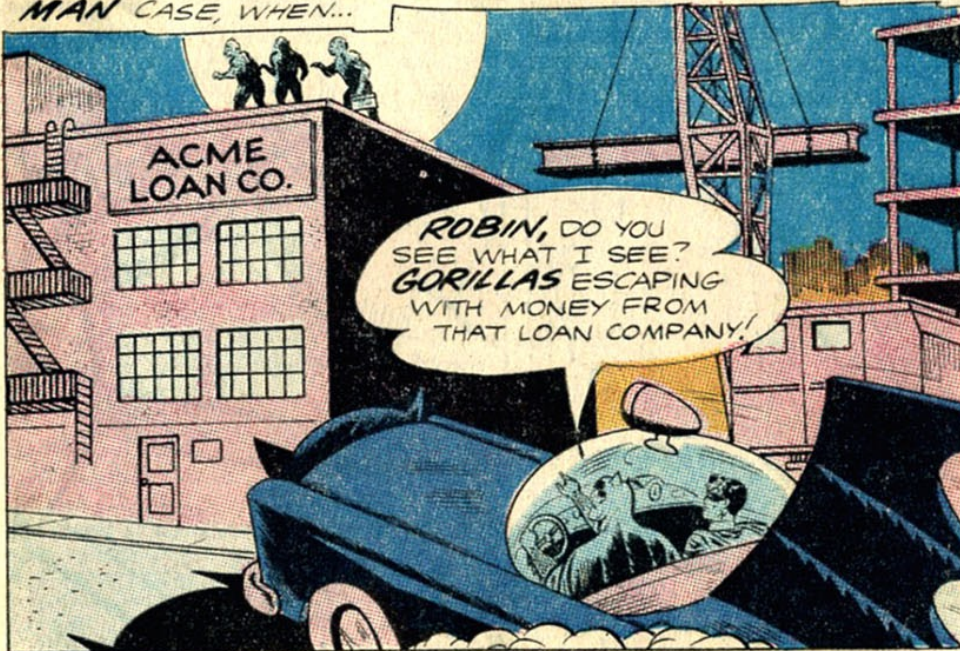


TOOTSIE ROLL FUDGE
Masterpieces of Delicious Candy
Creamy Smooth!

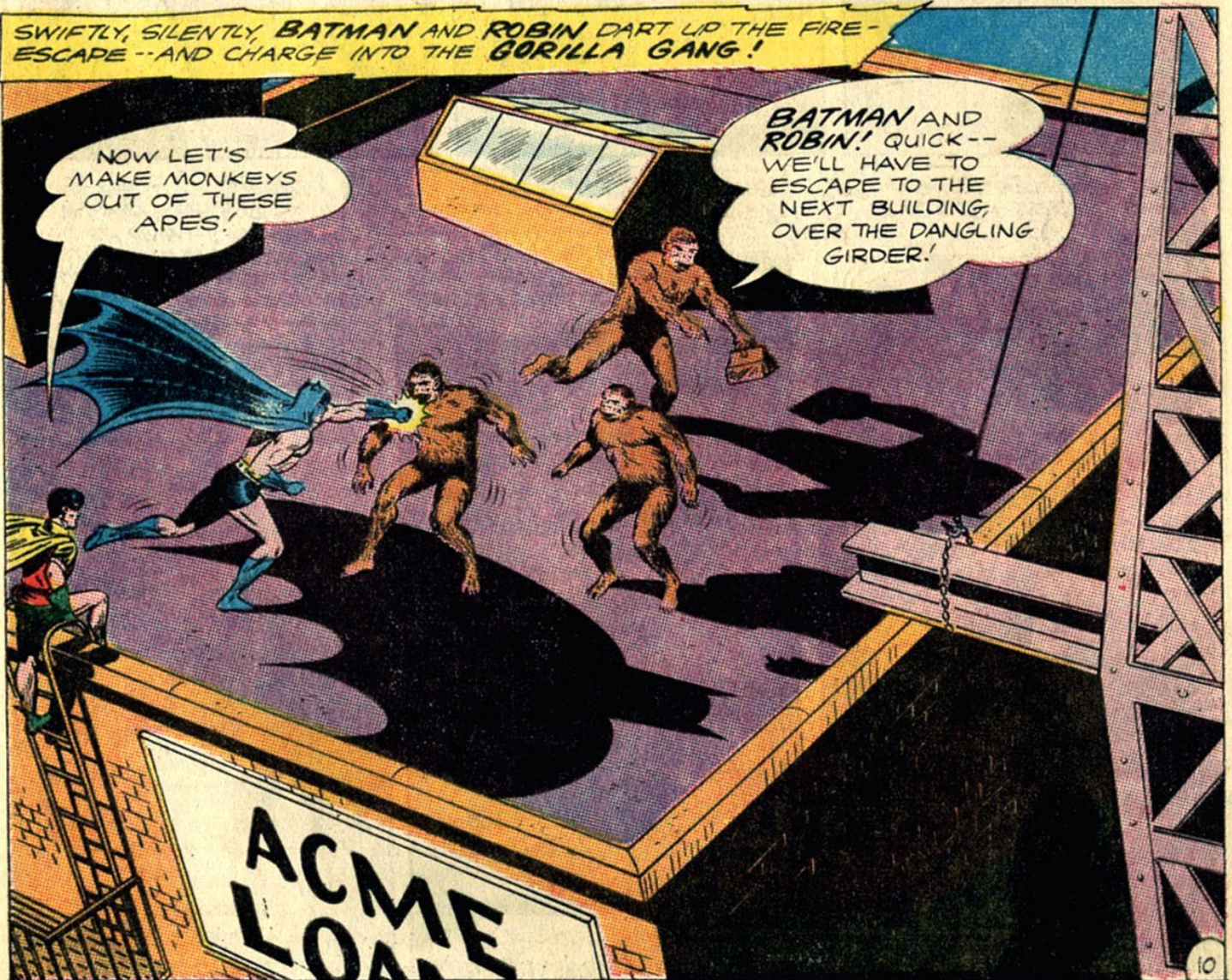
CHAPTER 2

ROBIN DIES AT DAWN

HOMeward BOUND **ROBIN** BRIEFS **BATMAN** ON THE **ANT-MAN** CASE, WHEN...



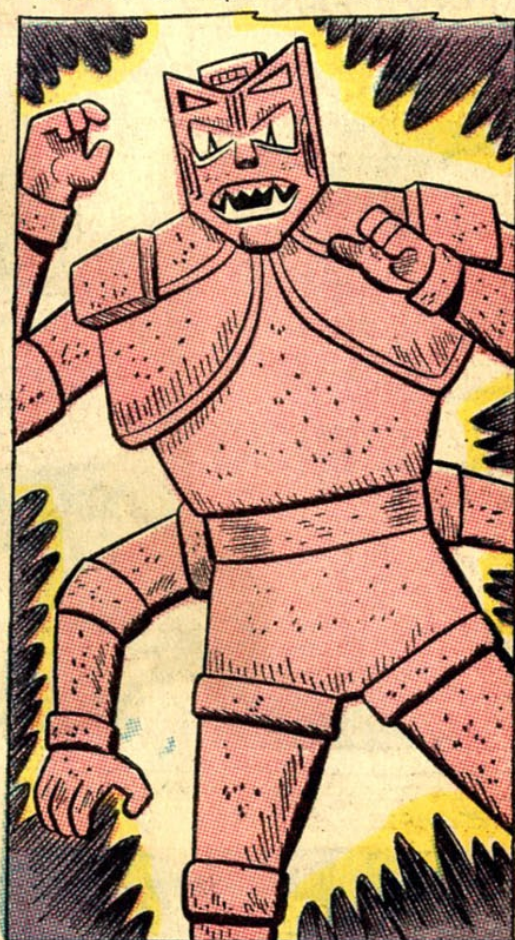
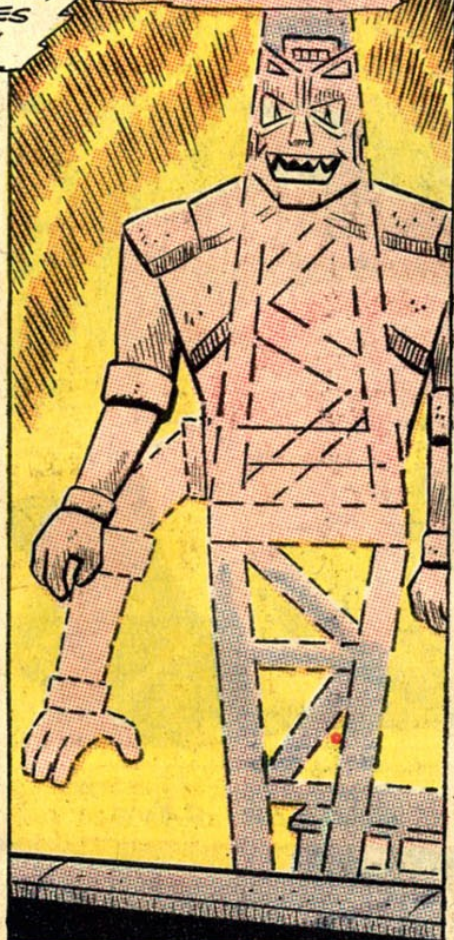
SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DART UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE--AND CHARGE INTO THE **GORILLA GANG**!



AS **ROBIN** RACES AHEAD TOWARD THE FLEEING BANDITS, **BATMAN** SUDDENLY STARES AT THE TALL CONSTRUCTION CRANE...

...AND IT SEEMS TO ALTER...

...TO BECOME THE STONE GIANT OF HIS HALLUCINATION!



ONCE AGAIN, **BATMAN** SEEMS TO SEE **ROBIN** IN PERIL, AND ACTS INSTINCTIVELY!

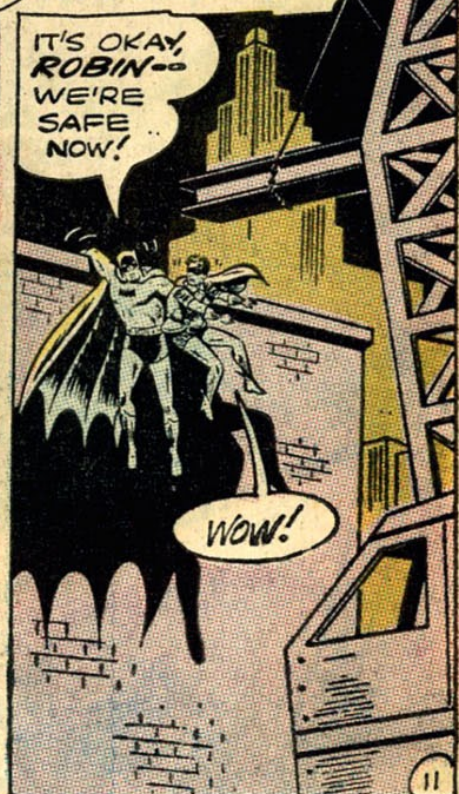
BUT, TO **ROBIN'S** EYES, THE SCENE IS A VERY DIFFERENT ONE!

ROBIN'S SUDDEN SHOUT JOLTS **BATMAN'S** LAPSE OF MEMORY--AND HE INSTANTLY FLINGS OUT A HAND THAT CLINGS WITH AN IRON GRIP!

BATMAN! YOU'RE TAKING US OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF!



NO, **ROBIN**--NO!



WOW!

LATER, AFTER **BATMAN** TELLS OF HIS MOMENTARY HALLUCINATION...

SORRY, **ROBIN**--I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKY FROM THE TEST. I--I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL BY TOMORROW!

I SURE HOPE SO--FOR **BATMAN'S** SAKE



LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION, **BRUCE'S** RETURN IS EAGERLY AWAITED BY TWO LOYAL FRIENDS!

ALFRED! **ACE!** AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME AGAIN!

WE ALL MISSED YOU, SIR!



FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING! THE HOUSE IS QUIET--UNTIL A SHOUT SENDS **DICK** BURSTING INTO **BRUCE'S** ROOM...

THE **TENTACLES**--TIGHTENING ABOUT ME! **HELP!** **ROBIN!** **HELP!**

GOSH! HE'S DREAMING ABOUT THE **TENTACLE-PLANT!**



AS THE SUDDEN ILLUMINATION AWAKENS **BRUCE**...

UH...? I'M HOME! OH, I HAD A NIGHTMARE! IT WAS AWFUL--AWFUL...

BRUCE, I'LL HAVE **ACE** SLEEP IN HERE TONIGHT--SO YOU WON'T FEEL SO ALONE...



Y-YES... MAYBE THAT WOULD BE BETTER...



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS **DICK** DESCENDS TO THE **BAT-CAVE**...

YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ON PATROL?

I CERTAINLY AM! I FEEL FINE TODAY! BESIDES, WITH THE **GORILLA GANG** IN TOWN, THE POLICE MAY NEED OUR HELP! GET DRESSED, **DICK**!



LATER-- EVER ON THE ALERT, THE **DYNAMIC DUO** INSTANTLY DASHES TO THE SOURCE OF A CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM!

A LUCKY BREAK FOR US! IT'S THE **GORILLA GANG** AGAIN!

THEY'VE CRACKED THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S VAULT! QUICK-- CIRCLE AROUND THEM, **ROBIN!** WE'LL HIT THEM FROM TWO DIRECTIONS.

CLANG

GOTHAM TRUCKING CO

UNEXPECTEDLY, THE **GORILLA GANG** PILES INTO A GETAWAY CAR HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS... ITS MOTOR ROARS... AND HEADLIGHTS FLASH ON...

UH -- THAT DAZZLING LIGHT!

RUN HIM, DOWN!

HALF-BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE, **BATMAN** STANDS TRANSFIXED-- LIKE A MOTH HYPNOTIZED BY FLAME...

...AND IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CAR SUBTLY CHANGES SHAPE...

...UNTIL HE IS ONCE AGAIN RELIVING HIS HALLUCINATION!

LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT **ROBIN** DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...

REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE **BOY WONDER** LEAPS AT THE BANDIT CAR AND...

HE'S YANKED THE WHEEL! GOTTA SHOVE HIM OFF!

WHEW! IT JUST MISSED **BATMAN!**

SCREEEE--EECH

CRACK

ACME
CAMPOR
FLAKES



BATMAN



IT IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE CAMPHOR BARREL THAT SNAPS **BATMAN** OUT OF HIS MOMENTARY TRANCE...

I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT AGAIN! **ROBIN**-- WHAT HAPPENED?

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME...



LATER, **BATMAN** AT LAST REALIZES THERE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG WITH HIM...

LET'S FACE REALITY! WHILE I HAVE THESE MENTAL BLACKOUTS, I ENDANGER YOUR LIFE! I CAN'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...



...I MUST PUT AWAY MY **BATMAN** COSTUME AND RETIRE FROM CRIME-FIGHTING!

OH, **BATMAN!** SOB!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMED TEAM DONS CRIME-FIGHTING GARB...

I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON--ABOUT THE TESTIMONY WE'LL GIVE AT THE **ANT-MAN'S** TRIAL! I--I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!

I-IF YOU RUN INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN YOU WOULD BE IF I WERE ALONG!



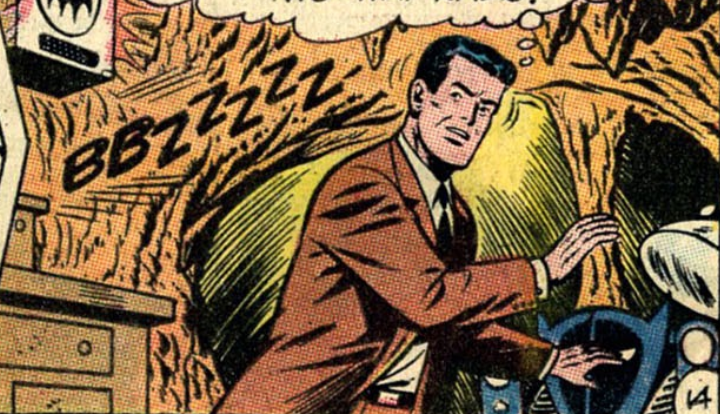
BUT ONE THING **ROBIN** KEEPS FROM **BATMAN** IS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH THE ARMY DOCTOR...

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! **BATMAN** WILL NEED TREATMENT! THEN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL BE HIMSELF AGAIN-- BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME...



HOURS PASS, AND KEEPING HIS VIGIL IN THE **BAT-CAVE**, **BRUCE** IS GETTING WORRIED, WHEN...

THE EMERGENCY **BAT-SIGNAL** FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON! I'D BETTER CONTACT HIM AT ONCE ON THE **BATMOBILE'S** TWO-WAY RADIO!



BATMAN, SOMEHOW THE **GORILLA GANG** LEARNED OF **ROBIN'S** APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON! THE GANG OVERCAME **ROBIN** SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY AND TOOK HIM PRISONER! THEY SENT ME A NOTE FOR YOU!

THE NOTE SAYS, "**BATMAN**, WE'VE SENTENCED **ROBIN** TO DEATH--AND AT DAWN, WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT OF THIS WORLD FOR GOOD! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR ROBBERIES AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEXT!"

I VOWED NOT TO WEAR THE **BATMAN** COSTUME AGAIN-- BUT **ROBIN'S** LIFE IS AT STAKE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE **GORILLA GANG** HIDEOUT--AND **ROBIN**-- BEFORE DAWN!



THOUGH POLICE JOIN THE SEARCH, **BATMAN** IS LIKE A FURY AS HE CRASHES UNDERWORLD HAUNTS!

WHERE'S THE **GORILLA GANG** HIDEOUT? TALK!

G-GOSH! IF I KNEW I'D TELL YA! H-HONEST!



PRECIOUS HOURS PASS--WITH NO RESULT!

TIME'S RUNNING OUT! **ROBIN'S** SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG CITY! BUT WHERE? AND IF I DO FIND HIM, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM--OR WILL I BLACK OUT AGAIN AS I DID LAST NIGHT?



"LAST NIGHT"! THOSE WORDS SUDDENLY HELP **BATMAN** RECALL SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!

THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES PASSED THROUGH SPILLED **CAMPHOR FLAKES**! CAMPHOR SCENT IS VERY STRONG--TAKES QUITE A WHILE TO FADE AWAY COMPLETELY! THAT CAMPHOR SCENT WOULD BE TOO FAINT FOR ME TO TRAIL-- BUT NOT FOR A DOG'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL!



SHORTLY, WITH **ACE** IN HIS **BAT-HOUND** IDENTITY, THE MOVE AGAINST THE **GORILLA GANG** STARTS THIS NIGHT-- WHERE **LAST NIGHT'S** ENDED!

OKAY, **BAT-HOUND**-- THE CAMPHOR SMELL ON THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!



SOON--**DAWN!** SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT PROBE EVERYWHERE--ESPECIALLY THROUGH A SLIDING ROOFTOP...

MINUTES PASS AS THE CRIMINALS WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR COMPANION...



SUNRISE --AND ROBIN'S GONNA RISE UNTIL HE'S OUTA THIS WORLD!

HA, HA, ONE WHACK OF THIS SHARP AX AND...

HOLD IT, PETE. I HEARD SOMETHING-- SOUNDS LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LUKE, TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE IF ANYBODY'S SNOOPING AROUND!

CHECK!



WELL? ANYBODY OUTSIDE?

YES...

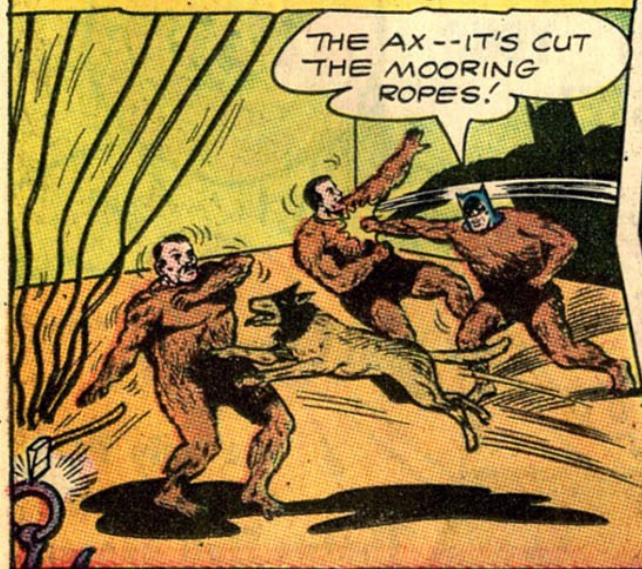


...ME!

BATMAN! HE KAYOED LUKE-- AND GOT INTO LUKE'S SUIT TO CATCH US OFF-GUARD! I'LL FIX HIM!

FREED, THE BALLOON STARTS TO RISE, THE ROPES TRAILING LIKE TENTACLES AROUND BATMAN'S SHOULDERS!..

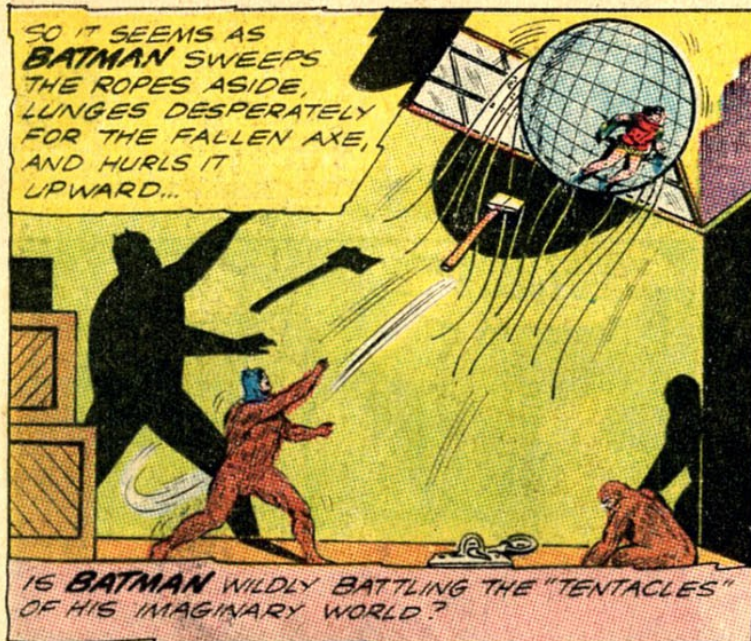
THEN, A SHAGGY SHAPE HURTTLES FORWARD LIKE A MISSILE...



THE AX--IT'S CUT THE MOORING ROPES!



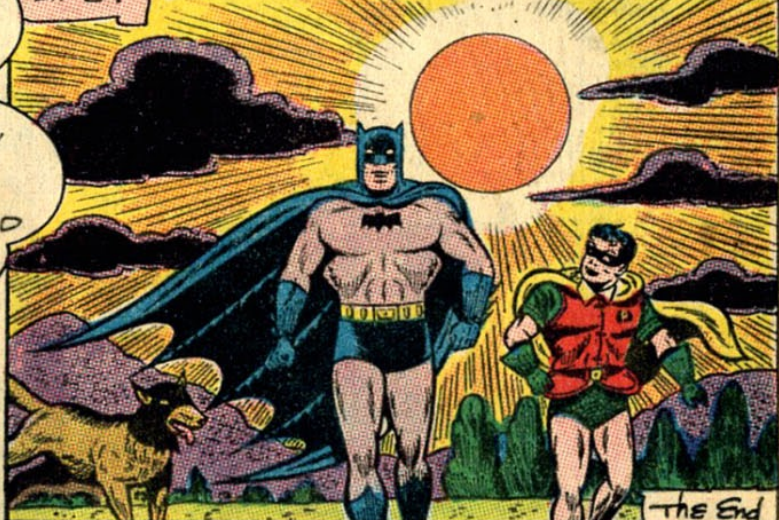
"LIKE TENTACLES"! WILL THOSE ROPES CAUSE BATMAN TO BLACK OUT AGAIN? WILL HE IMAGINE HE IS IN THE GRIP OF THE TENTACLE-PLANT?



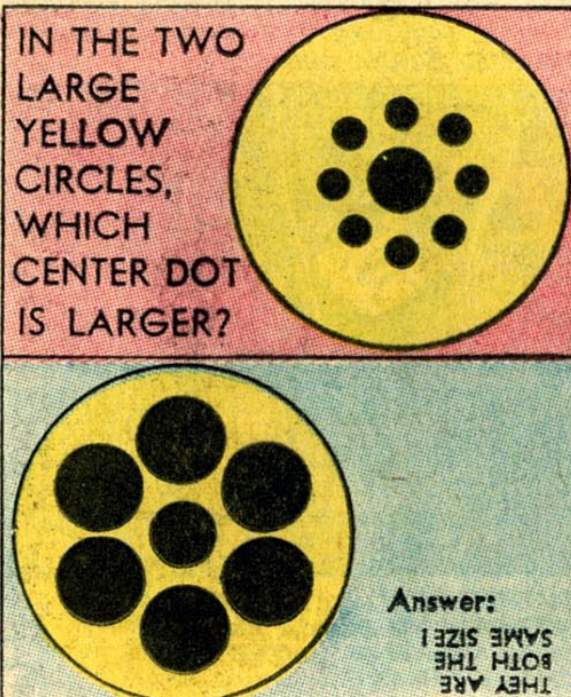
LATER, WHEN POLICE ARE SUMMONED TO JAIL THE **GORILLA GANG**...



DAWN -- ONCE AN OMEN OF **ROBIN'S** DEATH -- IT IS NOW A FITTING SIGN THAT **BATMAN'S** CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER HAS RETURNED TO LIFE!



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YOUR EYES MAY PLAY TRICKS... BUT NOT YOUR TASTE!

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6 DELICIOUS FLAVORS





DEATH KNOCKS

THREE

TIMES!



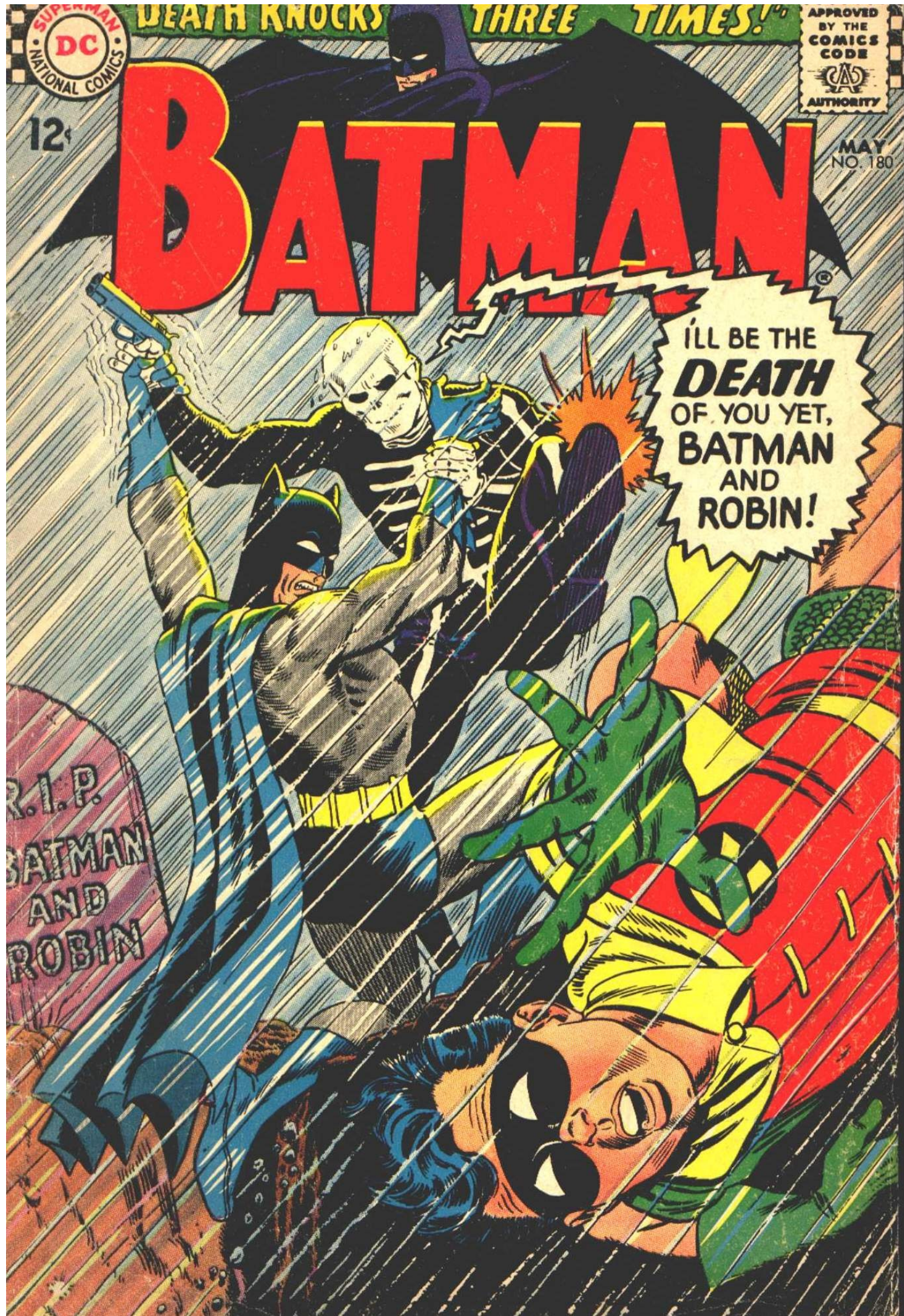
12¢

MAY
NO. 180

BATMAN

I'LL BE THE
DEATH
OF YOU YET,
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!

R.I.P.
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN



A SHATTERING NOVEL OF SINISTER
SUSPENSE STARRING --

BATMAN

With **ROBIN THE BOY WONDER**
AND THE SPECTRAL VICTIM WHO HAUNTS
THEM -- **DEATH-MAN!**

SOONER OR LATER,
EVERY CRIMINAL,
NO MATTER HOW
POWERFUL, HOW
CLEVER, HAS BEEN
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE
BY **BATMAN** AND
ROBIN!

NOW, FOR THE FIRST
TIME, A NIGHTMARISH
FIGURE APPEARS
WHO SLIPS THROUGH
BATMAN'S FINGERS
LIKE SMOKE -- A
MACABRE MENACE
WHO SEEMS TO BE
BEYOND THE FAR-
FLUNG REACH OF
LAW ITSELF!
LISTEN FOR A SOUND
YOU WILL NEVER FOR-
GET AS LONG AS YOU
LIVE WHEN --

**"DEATH
KNOCKS
THREE
TIMES!"**



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BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY, AND HIS PROTEGE DICK GRAYSON ARE GUESTS AT A PENTHOUSE SHOWING OF GOTHAM CITY'S SWANKIEST GEM DEALER...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE PRICELESS "RUBIES OF FIRE" COLLECTION!

AH, MR. WAYNE! THE INTERNATIONAL BEAUTIES YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH--RIVAL MY PRECIOUS GEMS! MAY I BORROW THEM TO MODEL MY DISPLAY?

HELP YOURSELF!

OOOOOHH--!

YOU GIRLS WON'T BE SO HAPPY WHEN YOU FIND YOU CAN'T TAKE HOME ANY "SAMPLES"!

TERROR SEIZES THE AUDIENCE BY THE THROAT AT THE SUDDEN SIGHT OF AN EERILY GARBED FIGURE..

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU--SO I'M TAKIN' IT WITH ME!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

GET SET, DICK! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM THAT COSTUMED CLOWN!

BUT--LIKE DEATHLY DARK SHADOWS--APPEAR...

IF ANY OF YOU ARE RASH ENOUGH TO TRY TO STOP ME--MY HENCHMEN WILL SEE THAT YOU REACH A DEAD END! HA-HA-HA-HA!

FROM THE FUNERAL FIGURE--
AN ICY WARNING...

LIVE A LITTLE! DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW ME THROUGH THIS DOOR! GUNS WILL BE AIMED AT IT UNTIL I'M GONE! FAREWELL!

WHILE THE AUDIENCE STARES NUMBLY...

WE CAN'T RISK GOING AFTER THAT WISE-CRACKING PHANTOM BY THE DOOR! HE MAY HAVE PLANTED A HOOK THERE TO GUN DOWN ANYONE COMING THROUGH! AND WILD SHOTS COULD KILL SOMEONE INSIDE!



WE'LL CHANGE AND FOLLOW HIM DOWN THE FIRE-ESCAPE!

IT'LL BE A 20-STORY CHASE!



MOMENTS LATER, THE UNIQUE TEAM OF BATMAN THE MASTER DETECTIVE, AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, DANGLE IN DIZZY SPACE AS...

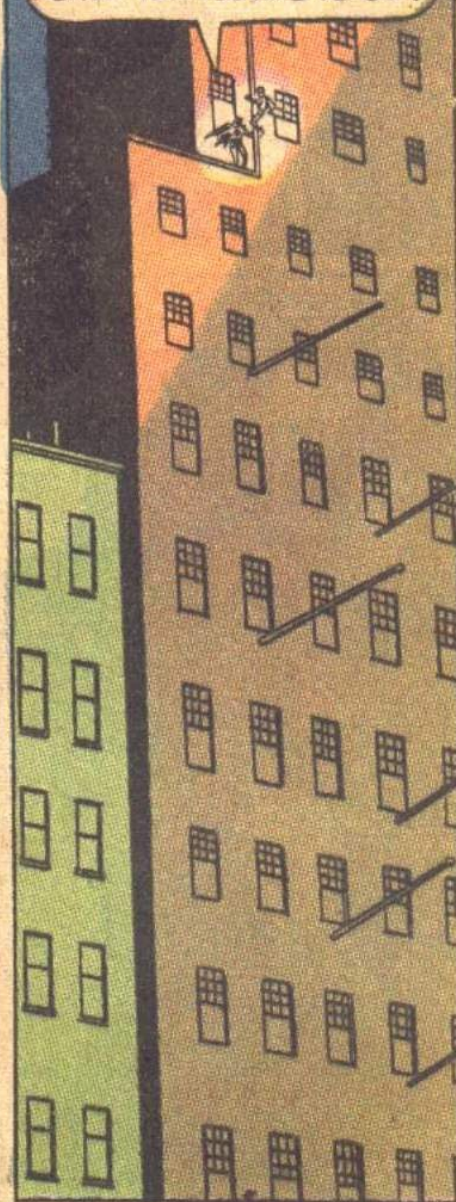
WE'LL HAVE TO SLIDE DOWN THIS PIPE! I FORGOT THE BUILDING IS FIRE-PROOF--NO FIRE-ESCAPES!

NOW YOU TELL ME!



SUDDENLY, THE DARING DUO'S SPECTACULAR SLIDE COMES TO AN END WHEN...

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE RUN OUT OF PIPE! AND WE'VE STILL TEN FLOORS TO GO!



AT THAT MOMENT--A LONE GUARD VALIANTLY TRIES TO HALT THE ESCAPING GANG LED BY THEIR EERIE LEADER...

THE FOOL--GIVING UP HIS LIFE--JUST TO HOLD ME FOR A FEW SECONDS!

HE'S GOT ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE OF STOPPING YOU--DEATH-MAN--AS HE'D HAVE OF STOPPING A TIDAL WAVE WITH A TEA CUP!



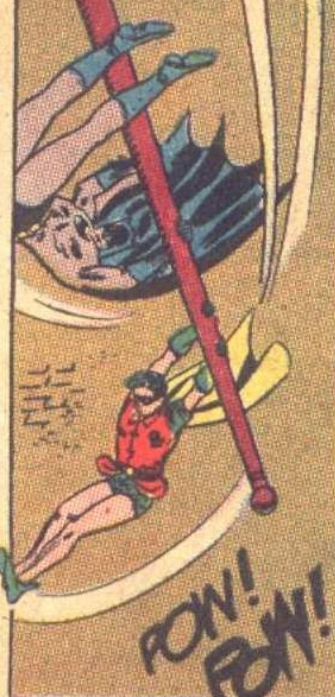
THE SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE FROM BELOW STING BATMAN AND ROBIN INTO RISKING THEIR LIVES TO THEIR INCREDIBLE ACROBATIC AGILITY AS...

HEAR THAT, ROBIN? 2 SHOTS! THAT GRISLY GANG MUST HAVE REACHED THE STREET AND ARE SHOOTING THEIR WAY OUT! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THE FASTEST WAY DOWN TO TRY TO STOP THEM! VIA THOSE FLAGPOLES!

GO!--
GO!--
GO!--
BATMAN!

A SINGLE, WOUNDED GUARD--HOLDING THE GANG BACK--

HE COULD USE FOUR HELPING HANDS--!



AS THE RUTHLESS FIGURE OF DEATH LEADS HIS SINISTER GANG PAST THE SLUMPED GUARD--FLAPPING CAPES LIKE GIANT WINGS SEEM TO HOVER OVER THEM...



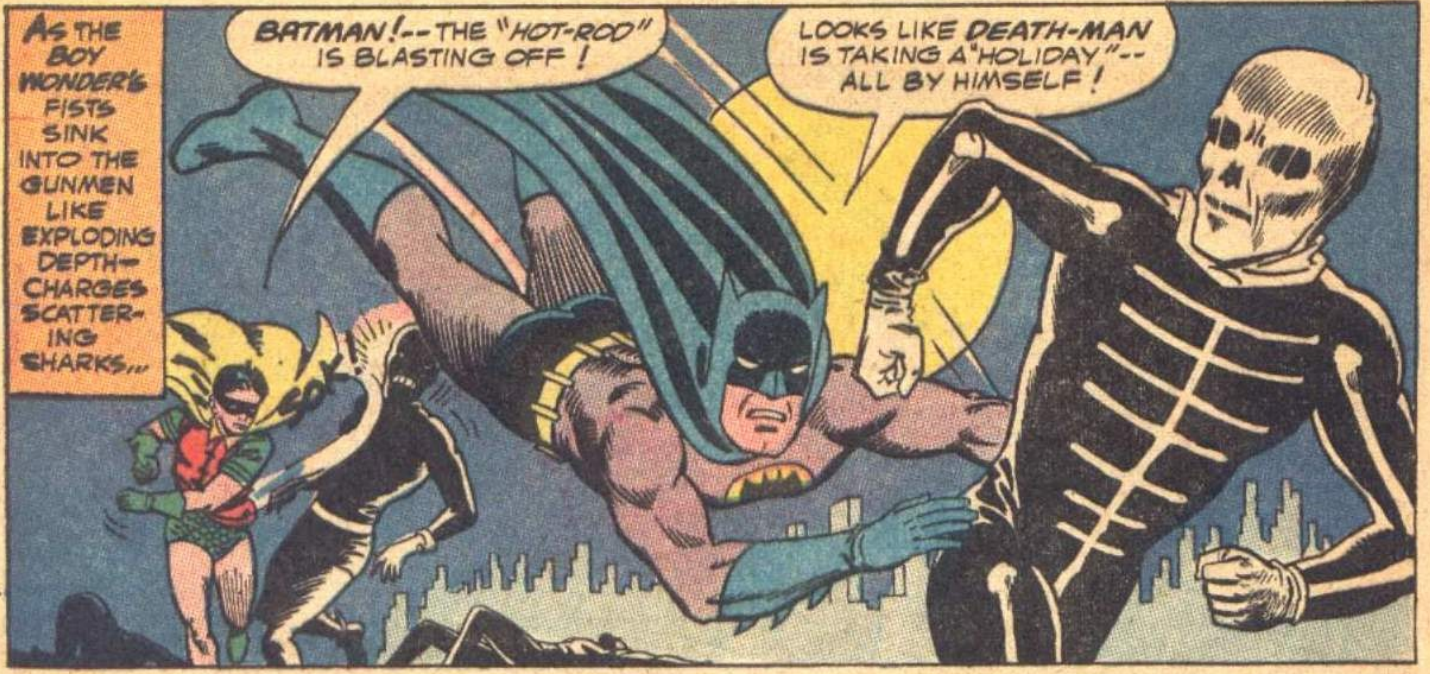
BATMAN...
TAKE...
OVER...

A LITTLE MORE TARGET PRACTICE WON'T HOLD US UP MUCH! AN EXTRA RUBY TO THE MAN WHO "KNOCKS" THOSE CLAY PIGEONS OUT OF THE AIR FIRST!

AS THE BOY WONDER'S FISTS SINK INTO THE GUNMEN LIKE EXPLODING DEPTH-CHARGES SCATTERING SHARKS...

BATMAN!--THE "HOT-ROD" IS BLASTING OFF!

LOOKS LIKE DEATH-MAN IS TAKING A "HOLIDAY"---ALL BY HIMSELF!



EVEN THOUGH BATMAN'S HANDS CLOSE LIKE HANDCUFFS AROUND THE EERIE FIGURE--HIS BLOOD TURNS TO ICE AT THE CHILLING LAUGHTER..

HA-HA-HA! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED ME? YOU'VE NOTHING BUT THE BLACK SHADOW OF DEATH IN YOUR HANDS! I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME I WISH!



I NEVER HEARD ANY CRIMINAL SO CONFIDENT OF ESCAPE! AT THE VERY MOMENT OF HIS CAPTURE! HOW COULD HE BE SO SURE? HOW?--HOW?--HOW?



THE EERIE BATTLE BETWEEN BATMAN AND HIS SPECTRAL FOE CONTINUES WITH SOARING SUSPENSE ON THE 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

DON'T HESITATE--
CHOOSE...

The MAGS
with the
GO-GO CHECKS!

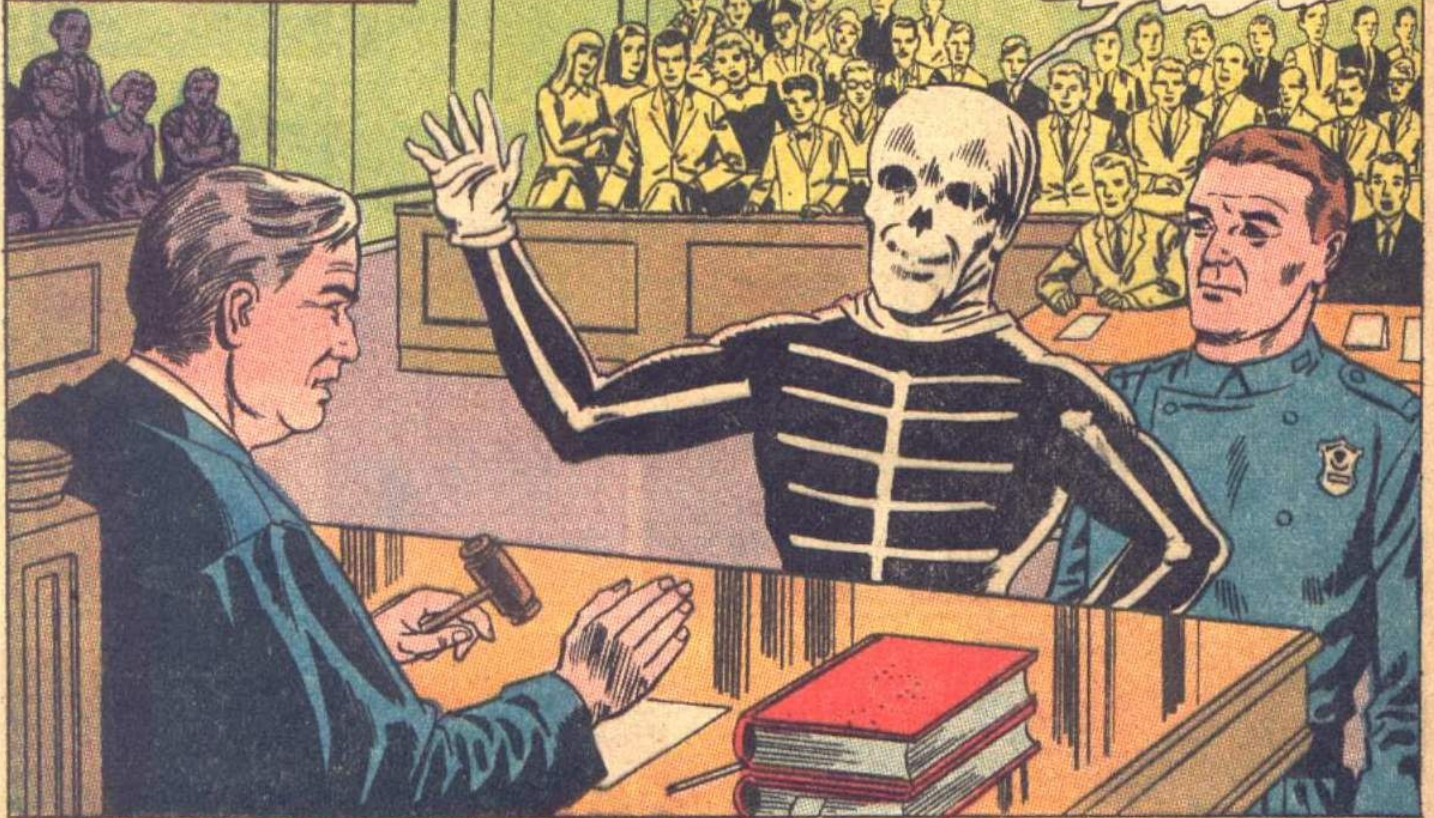
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS

DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES! PART 2

BATMAN AND ROBIN'S CAPTURE OF THE SINISTER DEATH-MAN, WHOSE UNIFORM, GRAFTED ON TO HIM, CANNOT BE REMOVED, RESULTS IN A SPEEDY TRIAL WITH THE INEVITABLE ENDING FACED BY ALL CRIMINALS... BUT EVEN SO... EERIE LAUGHTER CHILLS THE COURTROOM AS...

SINCE THE JURY UNANIMOUSLY FOUND YOU GUILTY--THE DEATH PENALTY IS MANDATORY! I THEREFORE SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH IN THE MATTER PRESCRIBED BY THE LAWS OF THIS ST--

HA! HA! HA!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SENTENCE ME TO DEATH?



I--AND I ALONE POSSESS THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH! I AM BEYOND YOUR FEEBLE LAWS! YOU CAN NO MORE JAIL A SHADOW--OR PUNISH IT-- THAN M-M-M--



HE--HE'S NOT BREATHING... HIS PULSE HAS STOPPED BEATING!-- HE'S DEAD!



IN GOTHAM'S TAVERN-ON-THE-GREEN, AFTER THE SPECTACULAR CONCLUSION TO THE TRIAL...

BRUCE?... BRUCE, DARLING--YOU'RE NOT WITH US!

THAT'S OBVIOUS, DARLING! ISN'T HE, DARLINGS?

BUT--WHERE IS HE?



EXCUSE ME, GIRLS! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAD TO DO! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK--IN A DAY OR SO! CHARLES--SEE THAT THE LADIES HAVE EVERYTHING THEY WANT!

THEY'LL LACK FOR NOTHING--EXCEPT YOUR COMPANY, MR. WAYNE!



THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN AND HIS YOUTHFUL WARD HURRY TO THE BATCAVE WHERE...

MAYBE YOU'LL THINK I'M FLIPPING--BUT I CAN'T GET DEATH-MAN'S MOCKING LAUGHTER--JUST WHEN I CAUGHT HIM--OUT OF MY HEAD! HOW COULD HE HAVE BEEN SO CONFIDENT HE WOULDN'T PAY FOR HIS CRIME?

I'VE BEEN BUGGED BY THE SAME THING! HE SEEMED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM--RIGHT UP TO THE VERY MOMENT OF SENTENCING!



IT ISN'T HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO BE THAT CONFIDENT! UNLESS--HE WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THAT HE WOULD ESCAPE THROUGH THE USE OF SOME GIMMICK THAT WE WERE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OF CHECKING--AND YOU'RE TAKING IT!



AT A GRAVEYARD, AT THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...

I COULD HAVE SWORN--? WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW! IT'S DEATH-MAN ALL RIGHT! DESPITE ALL HIS MOCKING LAUGHTER AT ME--AND THE LAW!

LOOKS LIKE THE LAST LAUGH WAS ON HIM!



BUT, IN THE NIGHTS THAT FOLLOW--BRUCE IS HAUNTED BY HOLLOW LAUGHTER...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY
THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED
ME?

HA!
HA!
HA!

HA!

HA!

YOU'VE NOTHING BUT THE
BLACK SHADOW OF
DEATH IN YOUR HANDS!
I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BE-
TWEEN YOUR FINGERS
LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME
I WISH!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA HA!
HA HA!



JUST IMAGINE--I COULD KILL YOU-- AND NO
LAW COULD TOUCH ME--BECAUSE--HOW CAN
YOU PROSECUTE A DEAD MAN?

HA! HA! HA!
HA!
HA!

NO!
NO!
NO!



WAKE UP, BRUCE!
WAKE UP! YOU
MUST HAVE BEEN
HAVING A KING-SIZE
NIGHTMARE! I
HEARD YOUR
MOANS CLEAR
ACROSS TO MY
ROOM! WHAT WAS
IT? SOMETHING
YOU ATE?

N-NO... "SOMETHING" I
CAN'T "DIGEST"... I--I
THINK A CHANGE OF
SCENE WILL DO ME
GOOD--HELP ME FOR-
GET SOMETHING THAT
NEEDS FORGETTING!
TELL YOU WHAT--LET'S
GO SCUBA-DIVING--
IN JAMAICA--



A FEW DAYS LATER...

THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL "DRYLAND" FISHING! EVER SINCE WE LANDED HERE -- BRUCE HASN'T BEEN NEARER WATER THAN THE ICE IN THAT SOFT DRINK HE'S BEEN DIVING INTO --



FLASH! DEATH-MAN HAS STRUCK AND KILLED AGAIN! THIS TIME IN BAY CITY! -- THE KILLER --

SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER BEING CAPTURED BY BAT-MAN -- HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY EYE-WITNESSES AT THE SCENE OF HIS LATEST CRIME!

SORRY, GIRLS! I'VE A JET TO CATCH!

HEY! WAIT FOR ME!



A SPEEDY JET-FLIGHT... AND A SWIFT CHANGE IN THE BATCAVE...

EYE-WITNESSES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SLIP UP IN MAKING POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS...

POSITIVELY!



WE BOTH SAW DEATH-MAN TOPPLE DEAD! WE SAW HIM IN HIS GRAVE! THIS CAN'T BE HIM! IT MUST BE SOME GOON IMPERSONATING HIM!

WE'LL FIND OUT -- WHEN WE GET TO BAY CITY!

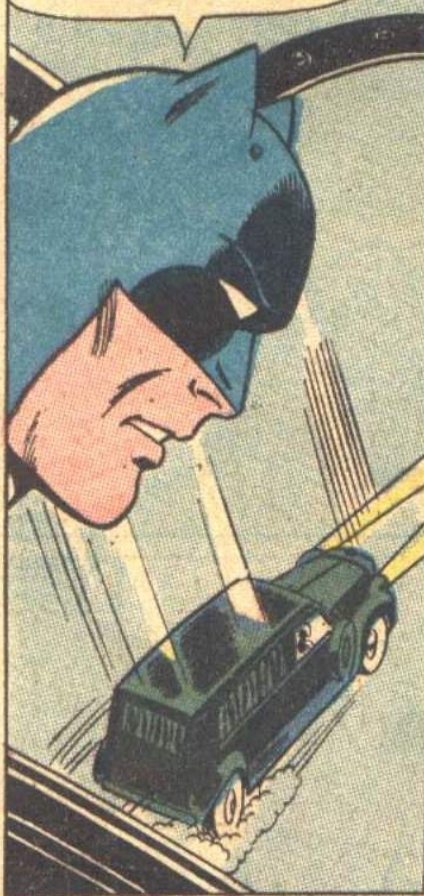


AS THE BAT-COPTER GLIDES TOWARD BAT CITY...

A.P.B.!-- DEATH-MAN AND HIS NEW HENCHMEN WERE LAST SEEN HEADING FOR ROUTE 66-A-- IN THE BLACK FUNERAL COACH IN WHICH THEY MADE THEIR GETAWAY FROM THEIR LATEST HOLDUP! IT IS REPORTED ARMORED AS BULLETS HAVE RICOCHETED OFF ITS SIDES...



BLACK FUNERAL COACH SPEEDING ALONG ROUTE 66-A! THAT MUST BE IT BELOW! I'LL GO NEARER AND CHECK--



AS A HAIL OF BULLETS SUDDENLY POURS FROM THE RACING GETAWAY CAR...

WE "KNOCKED" AND THEY "ANSWERED" WITH LEAD! IT'S THE GANG ALL RIGHT! BUT WHETHER IT'S DEATH-MAN IS ANOTHER MATTER!

SEEING IS BELIEVING! LET'S SEE!



FROM THE SWOOPING BAT-COPTER HURTLE...

OUR SMOKE-GRENADES COULD STOP THEM-- BUT THEY MISSED!



MAYBE THE BEST WAY TO SCORE A BULL'S-EYE-- IS TO STAND RIGHT ON IT!

HEY-- THAT'S NOT FAIR, BATMAN! IT WAS MY IDEA!



AGE BEFORE BRAINS, ROBIN! I NEED A COOL, STEADY HAND AT THE CONTROLS! LOWER AWAY-- RIGHT ONTO THE TARGET!

HA-HA-
HA-
HA! HA!
HA!

IT **IS** DEATH-MAN! THERE'S
NO MISTAKING THAT LAUGH!
SOMEHOW--HE'S RISEN
FROM THE DEAD!

POW!

YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, **BATMAN**-- RISKING A SECOND MEETING WITH DEATH! BUT YOU'RE ALSO A FOOL! YOU'LL HANG FOR YOUR FOOLHARDINESS!

HA-HA-HA-HA

AS & BY THE FIGURE-OF-DEATH'S COMMAND,
A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND ALMOST HURLS
BATMAN FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH...

WHIIISST!!

HOW
CONSIDERATE
OF YOU,
BATMAN!
JUST HANG THERE.

HOW
CONSIDERATE
OF YOU,
BATMAN!
JUST HANG THERE
ONE MOMENT MORE
AND I'LL TAKE YOU
WITH ME LIKE A
DEER SLUNG
OVER THE
HOOD!

HA! HA!
HA!

POW! POW!

THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION TO "DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES" WILL MAKE YOU DOUBT YOUR OWN SENSES--AS IT CONTINUES WITH BOILING SUSPENSE ON THE 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING !!

FOR PICKING THIS CHARACTER
TO BE THE LEADER OF

The **INFERIOR** **five**
THE MOST
DISASTROUS COLLECTION
OF DUMB CLUCKS IN
DC HISTORY!

YOU'VE MET **SUPERMAN!** YOU'VE MET THE **FLASH!**
NOW MEET THE HERO WHO IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING
LIKE THEM--WHO IS IN FACT,
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!--

MERRYMAN

HE WAS A
97-POUND
WEAKLING
BEFORE HE LOS
WEIGHT!



IF YOU'VE GOT 12¢ TO WASTE, BUY THE MAY-JUNE ISSUE OF **SHOWCASE** ON SALE MAR. 24th

IF YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO WALK THROUGH A GRAVEYARD AT MIDNIGHT-- THEN GO AHEAD AND GASP AT THE STARTLING CONCLUSION TO...

DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES

AS HE DANGLES PRECARIOUSLY UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE BAT-COPTER, LIKE AN AERIAL TOW-TARGET, BATMAN HEARS THE UNMISTAKABLE CHILLING LAUGHTER OF...

HA-HA-HA-- ISN'T IT NICE OF BATMAN TO GIVE US TARGET PRACTICE?

WE'LL FILL HIM SO FULL OF SLUGS HE'LL BE ABLE TO SELL SHARES IN HIMSELF LIKE HE WAS A LEAD MINE!

POW! POW!

ZING!

THAT SPINE-FREEZER! IT'S DEATH-MAN'S LAUGH ALL RIGHT! LIKE A BUZZARD AT A BANQUET!

THE MASKED DETECTIVE'S DARING TOSS EXPLODES THE SMOKE GRENADE RIGHT ON THE GETAWAY CAR'S HOOD!

CAN'T SEE--!

THEY'LL BE LAUGHING WITH SMOKE IN THEIR EYES!

BAM!

SSSSSHHH!

AND THEN--BY FATE'S GRIMMEST IRONY...

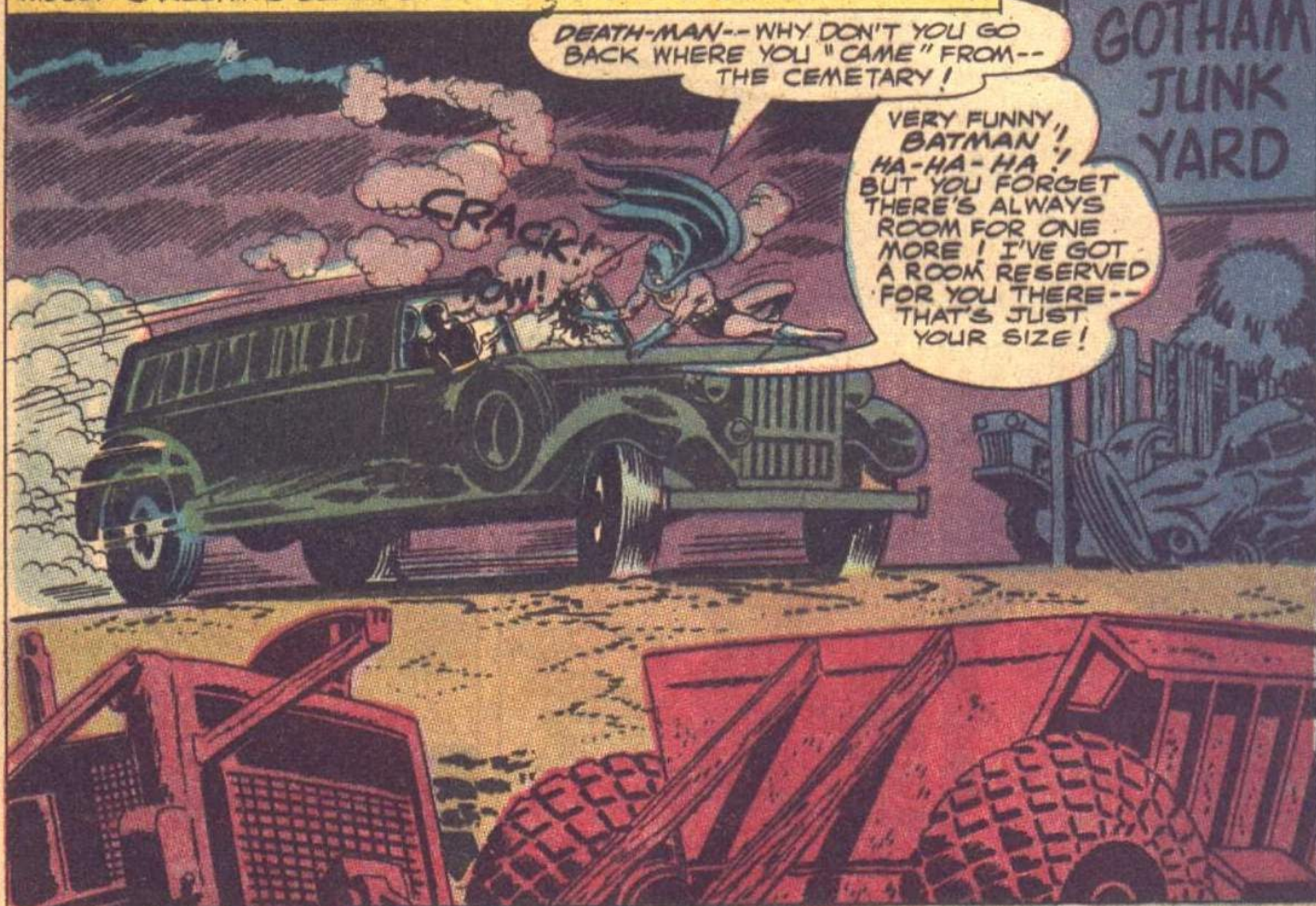
THE KILLER'S GETAWAY CAR--RUNNING BLIND--! RAMMED BATMAN ONTO ITS HOOD!

THUD!

AS BATMAN FIGHTS BOTH THE WAVES OF DARKNESS WHICH ROLL OVER HIM AS HE CLINGS DESPERATELY TO THE HOOD OF THE WIDELY-CAREENING DEATH-CAR AND THE SMOKE-BLINDED KILLERS...

DEATH-MAN-- WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK WHERE YOU "CAME" FROM-- THE CEMETARY!

VERY FUNNY, BATMAN!
HA-HA-HA!
BUT YOU FORGET THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE! I'VE GOT A ROOM RESERVED FOR YOU THERE-- THAT'S JUST YOUR SIZE!

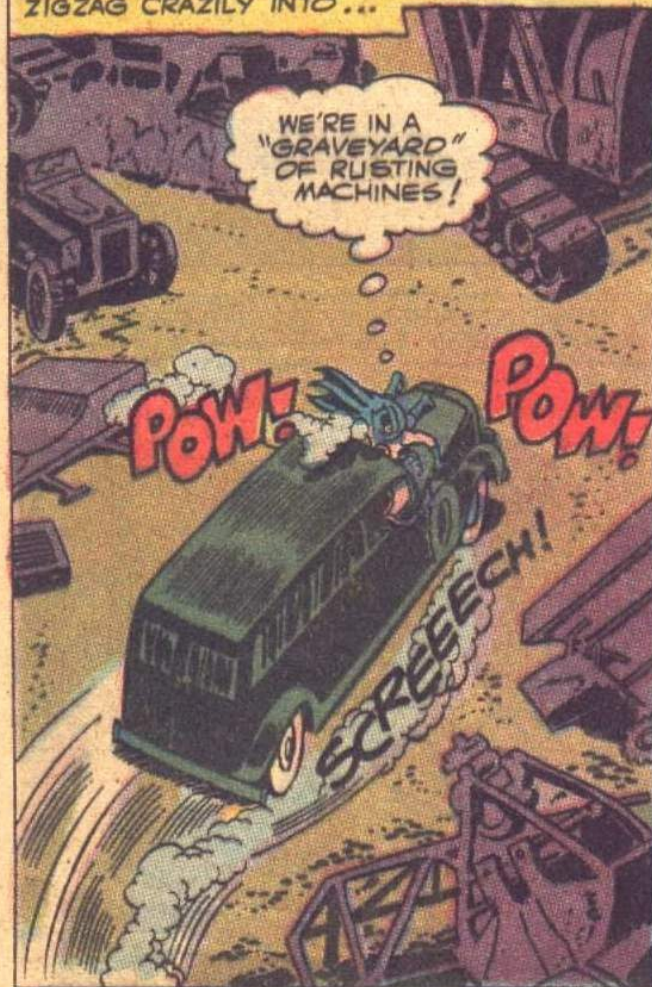


THE MASKED DETECTIVE'S WILD PUNCHES FORCES THE GANGSTER GETAWAY CAR TO ZIGZAG CRAZILY INTO ...

WE'RE IN A "GRAVEYARD" OF RUSTING MACHINES!

POW! POW!

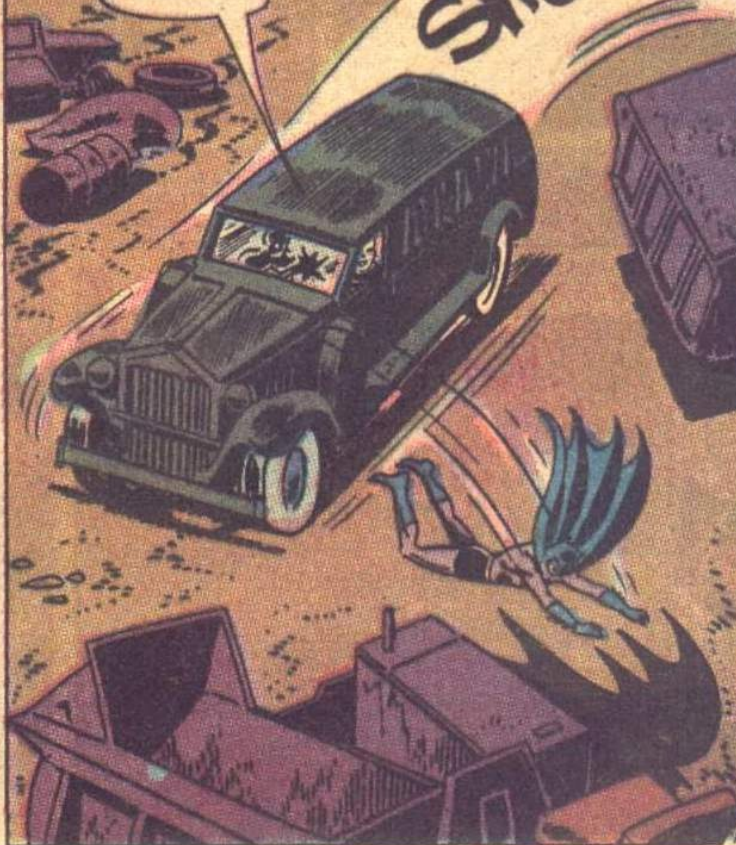
SCREECH!



AS THE CAR SCREECHES AROUND THE JUMBLE OF MACHINERY...

THIS IS THE END OF THE RIDE FOR YOU, BATMAN!
AND THERE ARE NO "TRANSFERS" ON THIS LINE!

SNOOSH!!



AS BATMAN LIES MOMENTARILY STUNNED, THE DEATH-CAR BACKS UP...

I CAN GUARANTEE YOU GUYS ONE THING! UNLIKE ME-- WHEN THEY PRONOUNCE **BATMAN DEAD**-- HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK FOR A "REPEAT PERFORMANCE!"

THAT GOON'S GOT IT WRONG--**DEATH-MAN'S** AIMING TO KILL ME!

DEATH-MAN--
YOU KILL ME!
HA-HA-HA!

WHROOSH!

AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, AS THE CRUSHING WHEELS WHIRL DOWN AT HIM...

I'LL ROLL IN BETWEEN THE WHEELS WHERE THAT GIGGLING GHOUL WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME!

WE DIDN'T GET **BATMAN**! AFTER HIM!

WHOOOSH!

I DON'T LIKE THIS "BALL GAME"! NOT WHEN **DEATH-MAN'S** USING ME FOR THE "BALL"!

I'VE GOT TO CHANGE PLACES WITH THAT DEMOLITION BALL... BEFORE **DEATH-MAN** TAKES ANOTHER "SWING" AT ME!

GRIMLY, THE MASTER ATHLETE HURLS HIS ENTIRE WEIGHT AGAINST THE MASSIVE IRON BALL AS...

HERE HE COMES! BUT--I HAVEN'T MADE THE BALL SWING HARD ENOUGH TO PUT A DIMPLE IN A BLONDE'S CHEEK!

POW!

AS **BATMAN** DESPERATELY SWINGS BACK ON THE HUGE BALL...

BATMAN IS PUTTING ON A GOOD ACT! BUT LET'S MAKE SURE IT'S HIS "FAREWELL PERFORMANCE"! APPLAUD HIM WITH LEAD!

BAM!
BAM!

BUT THE ACE
ATHLETE
SOMERSAULTS
AWAY FROM
THE CRUSH-
ING IRON
BALL JUST
AS...

BONG!

CRASH!

I HOPE THE "HOUSE-WRECKERS
UNION" WON'T BE MAD AT ME FOR
WORKING WITHOUT A CARD! BUT I
HAD TO TAKE THIS "JOB" IN A HURRY!

AS THE FEARLESS CRIME-FIGHTER FACES
THE SNARLING GUNMEN--THE ICY-VOICED
DEATH-MAN COMMANDS...

BATMAN'S NOT LIKE ME! HE'S ONLY
HUMAN! FILL HIM FULL OF HOLES!
AND WE'LL WRAP HIM UP LIKE SWISS
CHEESE!

BAM!

AT THAT MOMENT...

AS FAR AS I KNOW,
BATMAN CAN'T
SWALLOW SWORDS,
GOLDFISH OR
LEAD! I'D
BETTER GO
DOWN TO
GIVE HIM A
HAND!

LIKE A HUMAN WRECKING BALL, THE BOY
WONDER CATAPULTS INTO THE STARTLED
GANG...

AS LONG AS THE
'COPTER CIRCLES ON
AUTOMATIC PILOT--I'LL
BE ABLE TO PLAY
"POP GOES THE
'COPTER WEASELS"
WITH THESE--
WHAT ELSE?

WHAT
ACT ARE
YOU
AUDITIONING,
ROBIN?



WHILE THE DARING ROBIN WHIRLS AROUND THE STARTLED GUNMEN ...



THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS ON A PERILOUS CHASE AS...



BATMAN SNEAKS AROUND IN FRONT OF THE KILLERS UNTIL...

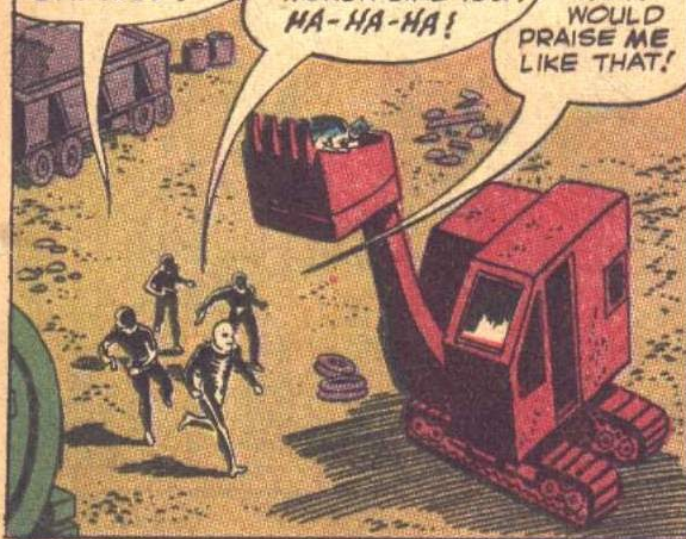


MOMENTS LATER, THE SHADOWY DEATH-MAN AND HIS RUTHLESS KILLERS RACE TOWARD...

LOOKS LIKE OUR SLUGS SCARED THE CAPE OFF BATMAN!

THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD JOKE FOR A HIGH CLASS MORON LIKE YOU! HA-HA-HA!

GOSH-- WISH DEATH-MAN WOULD PRAISE ME LIKE THAT!



SUDDENLY...

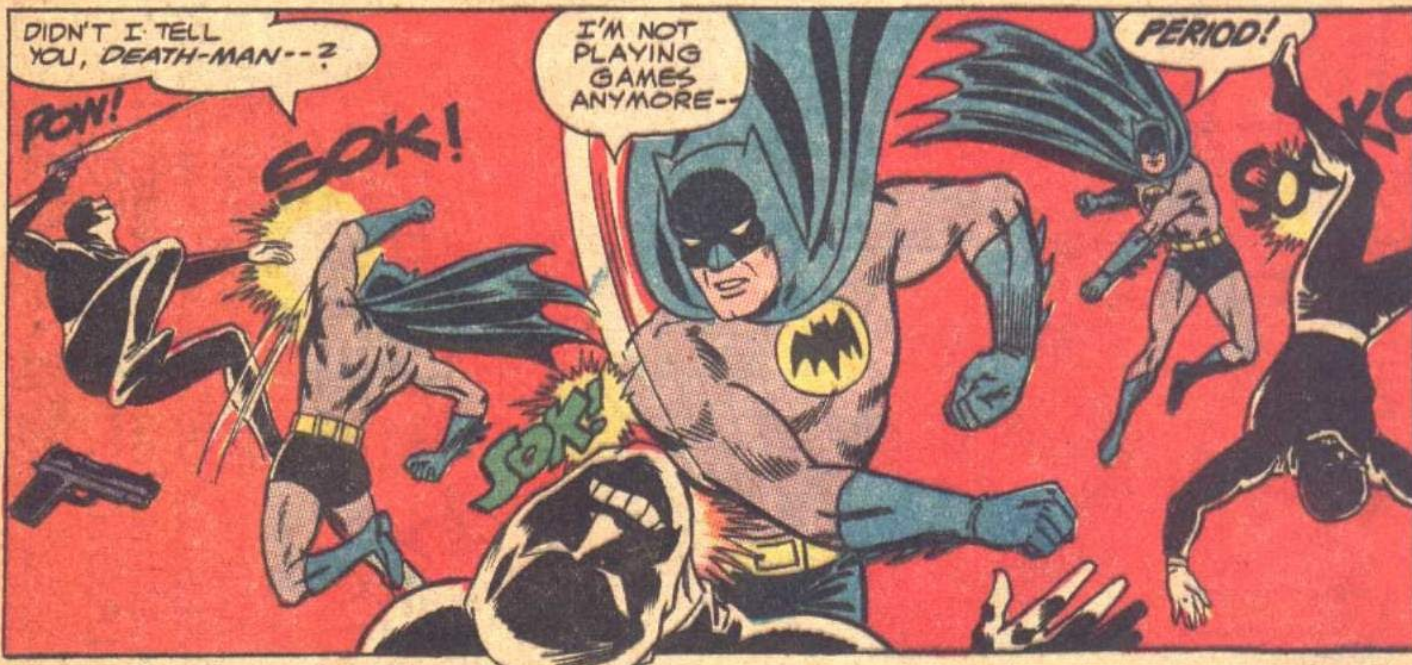
HOW SPORTING OF YOU, BATMAN-- GIVING MY MEN A BETTER SHOT AT YOU! HE'S EASY GAME NOW, MEN!



DIDN'T I TELL YOU, DEATH-MAN--?

I'M NOT PLAYING GAMES ANYMORE--

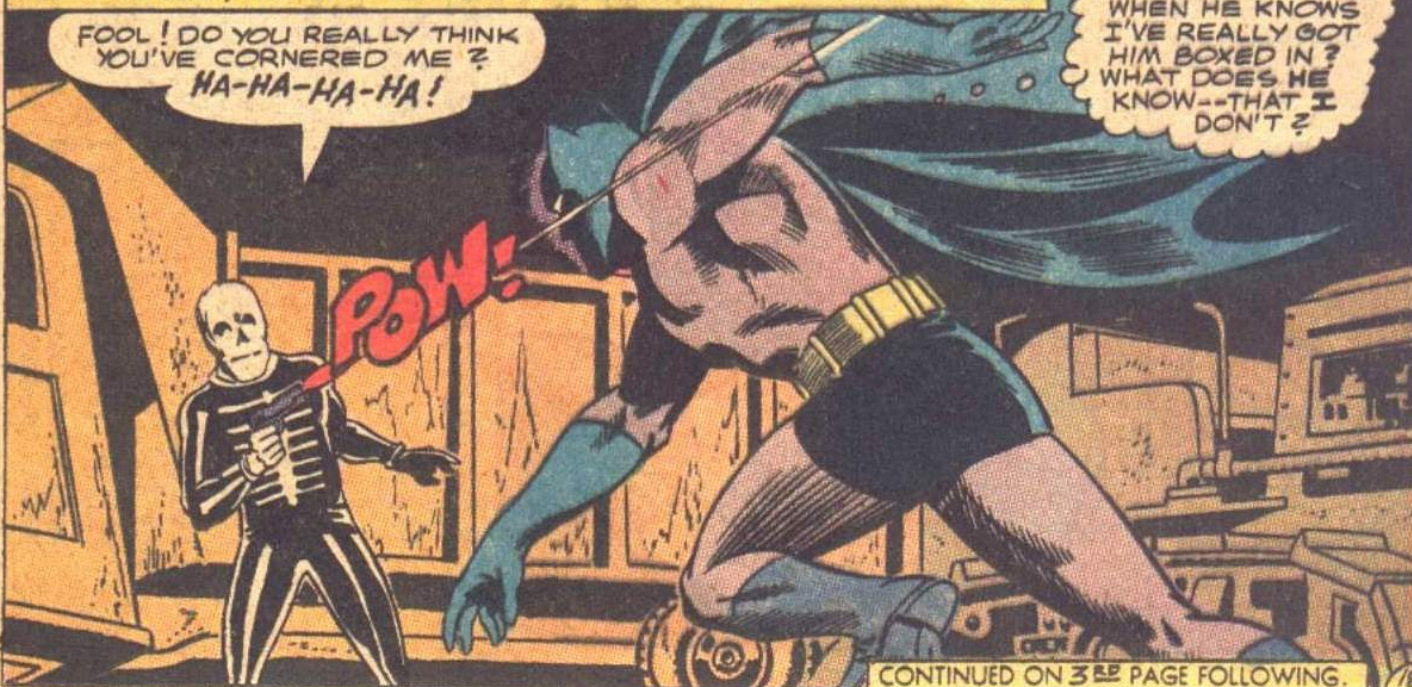
PERIOD!



RELENTLESSLY, THE MAN-HUNTER CLOSES IN ON THE EERIE KILLER...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE CORNERED ME? HA-HA-HA-HA!

HOW CAN HE LAUGH WHEN HE KNOWS I'VE REALLY GOT HIM BOXED IN? WHAT DOES HE KNOW--THAT I DON'T?



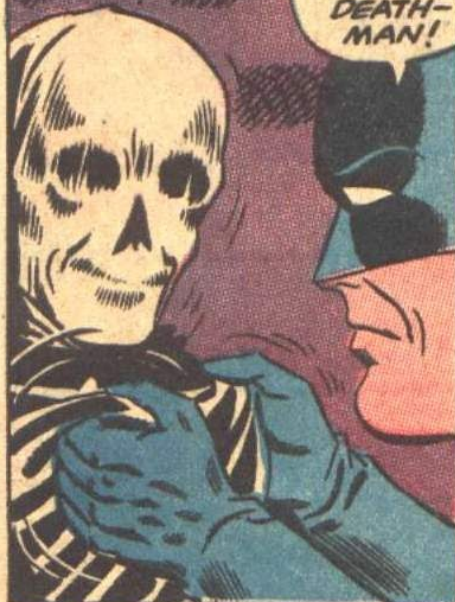
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

EVEN AS BATMAN'S HANDS
CLOSE IN ON HIS FOE LIKE
A STEEL VISE...

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE
CAPTURED ME? WHY--
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING
BUT THE BLACK SHADOW
OF DEATH IN YOUR HANDS!
I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN
YOUR FINGERS LIKE
SMOKE--ANYTIME
I WISH!

HA-HA-HA-HA!

YOU'VE
HAD
YOUR
THREE
WISHES,
DEATH-
MAN!



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO
DO WITH ME, BATMAN?
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO
PUNISH A MAN DECLARED
DEAD? I COULD MURDER
YOU--AND NO LAW COULD
TOUCH ME! BECAUSE--
HOW CAN YOU
PROSECUTE A
DEAD MAN?
BE HONEST!
ADMIT IT!

BE PATIENT...
I'LL
THINK
OF SOME-
THING!



IF YOU'RE
TOO TIRED
TO WALK
TO JAIL--
I'LL
CARRY YOU!

FOOL! I AND I
ALONE-- POSSESS
THE POWER OF
DEATH! YOU
CAN NO MORE
JAIL A
SHADOW--
THAN-- THAN
M--UHHH...



NO HEARTBEAT!
THIS IS A DREAM--
I'M GOING TO
WAKE UP ANY
MINUTE!



NO PULSE!
IT--IT
CAN'T
BE
HAPPENING
AGAIN!



HE'S STILL GRINNING--
LIKE A VULTURE THAT
HAD THE LAST LAUGH!



ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN KEEPS A CHILLING VIGIL ...

HE REALLY DID IT! DEATH-MAN PULLED OFF THE GREATEST 'ESCAPE' IN HISTORY! NOT ONCE--BUT TWICE!

WELL--THERE WON'T BE A THIRD TIME FOR HIM! SEEING IS BELIEVING! AND YOU'RE SEEING HIM--FOR THE LAST TIME!

CURTAIN GOING DOWN FOR GOOD THIS TIME! HIS ACT IS OVER!

AND NOBODY'S APPLAUDING FOR ENCORES!



THAT SAME NIGHT--THE MASKED PURSUER FINDS HIMSELF THE PURSUED--IN A NIGHT-MARE ...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED ME?



YOU CAUGHT NOTHING BUT THE BLACK SHADOW OF DEATH--I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME I WISH!



THE NEXT DAY... THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN SEEKS TO FORGET THE CHILLING SPECTRE IN A PARTY GIVEN BY ANOTHER WEALTHY MEMBER OF HIS SET...

AND NOW--FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT! A MAN BEING BURIED ALIVE! IT'S JUST THE TRICK TO LEARN, BRUCE--IF YOU WANT TO BE ALONE WITH ONE OF YOUR CUTIES!



AS MOMENTS LAPSE INTO MINUTES... AND MINUTES INTO HOURS...

DIG HIM UP, PLEASE! NOBODY COULD HAVE BEEN BURIED FOR SO LONG--AND STILL BE ALIVE!

WE SHALL SEE!



LOOK AT HIM! MOTIONLESS AS A WAX FLOWER!

YOU'VE GOT A CORPSE ON YOUR HANDS!



NO, SAHIBS! I ONLY APPEARED DEAD! I HAVE MASTERED THE ULTIMATE YOGI EXERCISE WHICH SLOWS UP BREATHING, PULSE, AND HEARTBEAT UNTIL LIFE ITSELF CAN NO LONGER BE DETECTED! I CAN REMAIN IN THIS STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION, APPARENTLY DEAD--UNTIL I AM DUG UP AGAIN! I HAVE HEARD OF WESTERNERS WHO HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF APPEARING DEAD--IN MY COUNTRY!



EXCUSE ME, LADIES--IT'S TIME FOR MY EXERCISE! I'VE GOT A LITTLE DIGGING TO DO!



GRANTED PERMISSION BY THE AUTHORITIES, BATMAN AND ROBIN HURRY TO THE BROODING GRAVEYARD AS SINISTER DARKNESS FALLS... A WILD STORM ARISES...

--AND THAT'S HOW DEATH-MAN MADE HIS "ESCAPES"! HE MUST HAVE MASTERED THAT YOGI EXERCISE! WE PROBABLY GOT HERE AHEAD OF HIS GANG! SO-- WHEN WE DIG HIM UP-- THE ONLY "EXERCISE" HE'LL GET FROM NOW ON-- IS THAT SHORT WALK TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR--FOR THE KILLINGS HE DID! ROBIN-- DID YOU HEAR ME?

HOW CAN I--WHEN MY HEART'S DOING THE WATUSI? I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A BORIS KARLOFF MOVIE--AND I'M THE VICTIM!

CRASH!

RUMBLE!



AS A LIGHTNING BOLT MAKES THE SCENE GLOW WITH A BALEFUL LIGHT...

EMPTY!-- DEATH-MAN "VACATED" HIS "LEASE" EVEN SOONER THAN I EXPECTED!

LOOK! HE LEFT A "VALENTINE NOTE" BEHIND!



DEAR BATMAN:
SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE SPENDING ALL YOUR SPARE TIME IN GRAVEYARDS LATELY--I'M "RESERVING" THIS "UNDERGROUND SUITE" EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU!

DEATH-MAN!



ICY LAUGHTER SHRIEKS EVEN ABOVE THE WILD WIND AND THE LASH OF LIGHTNING...

HA-HA-HA! I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND TO "HAUNT" ME AGAIN, BATMAN! SO NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A GENUINE GHOST!



AS FLAMING LEAD SIZZLES BY...

ROBIN-- STEP TO THE REAR OF THE CAR, PLEASE!

BATMAN-- YOU CAN'T USE YOURSELF AS A HUMAN SHIELD TO STOP THOSE BULLETS FROM REACHING ME! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE-- SUPERMAN?



UHHHH-- NO, ROBIN-- I JUST FOUND OUT-- I'M NOT!



FIGHTING TO FORGET THE SEARING BULLET PAIN BLAZING INSIDE HIM--THE GOTHAM GANGBLISTER BARRELS INTO...

I'VE GOT TO PULL THE CARPET OUT FROM UNDER THESE HOODS...



SOCK!

--BEFORE THEY FIND OUT...



--I'M SHOT--!



DESPERATELY, THE WOUNDED BATMAN SENDS HIS RELENTLESS ADVERSARY HURLING DOWN THE EMBANKMENT WITH HIM AS...

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SHOT, BATMAN! YOUR STRENGTH IS POURING OUT OF YOU LIKE SAND FROM AN HOUR GLASS! YOU'VE CHOSEN A GOOD PLACE FOR YOUR FINISH!

HA-HA-HA!



THE FRENZIED OPPONENTS CANNONBALL INTO ROBIN...

UHHHPH...



VAINLY, BATMAN CALLS UPON HIS BLEEDING WILL...

I--I-- CAN'T... MAKE... IT...

YOU WERE BEATEN FROM THE START, BATMAN-- WHEN YOU DARED TO MATCH WITS WITH ME! NOW-- YOU'LL LIVE ONLY UNTIL IT TAKES ME TO LOWER THIS GUN ON A LINE WITH YOUR HEAD! AND NO YOGI TRICK CAN SAVE YOU FROM DEATH!

HA-HA-HA-HA!



THE CHILLING LAUGHTER IS TORN IN TWO BY A WHITE-HOT FLASH AS...

THE GUN--
ATTRACTED
THE
LIGHTNING!

HA-
HA!

KRACK!

HE WAS ELECTROCUTED--JUST AS SURELY-- AS IF HE WERE-- IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! HIS SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT!

AS THE BATTERED CRIME FIGHTERS LIMP AWAY...

DEATH-MAN
WAS WRONG... NO CRIMINAL...
IS EVER BEYOND THE
REACH... OF JUSTICE!

...EVEN IF IT
HAS TO REACH
FOR HIM...
FROM THE
SKY!

THIS ENDS BATMAN'S ELECTRIFYING
BATTLE AGAINST THE CRIMINAL WHO
"CAME BACK" FROM THE GRAVE TWICE
TO FIGHT HIM-- ONLY TO DISCOVER
THAT--"DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES!"

STILL TOPS 'EM ALL!

Here are the **ORIGINAL**
WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES!
in THE MAGAZINE
THAT DARES TO BE
DIFFERENT!

SEE THIS FABULOUS FOURSOME--
ROBOTMAN, ELASTI-GIRL,
NEGATIVE MAN and THE CHIEF--
PLUS THAT SWINGIN' TEEN,
BEAST-BOY, BATTLE...
"the **METEOR MAN!**"

THRILL TO ANOTHER
ROBOTMAN-IAC ADVENTURE,
A SUPER-SUSPENSE STORY
ABOUT THE WORLD'S WILDEST
MANHUNT...
AND **"NO HOME FOR A
ROBOT!"**

in the latest, greatest issue of



PART THREE

TALIA AL GHUL AND THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS

YOUR MOVE,
BELOVED.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
2012!

DC DETECTIVE
COMICS



MAY
NO. 411

APPROVED
BY THE
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AUTHORITY

15¢

Detective Comics presents

BATMAN AND BATGIRL



**"INTO THE
DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS!"**

THE NIGHT BREATHES SOOT-COLORED FOG... AND THERE IS A STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY BY GASPS OF WIND AND THE MUFFLED LAPPING OF THE SEA. ACROSS THE BAY, THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY GLOW DIMLY, COLDLY, LIKE BEACONS OF HELL...

SILENT AND MOTIONLESS AS A BIRD OF PREY, THE DREAD **BATMAN** PERCHES ATOP THE **STATUE OF FREEDOM**, WAITING, WAITING...

AT THIS TIME, THIS PLACE, IT BEGINS... A TERROR-FRAUGHT JOURNEY BY...

THE BATMAN

-- "INTO THE DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS!"

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART: BOB BROWN
AND
DICK GIORDANO

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INSIDE THE MASSIVE
SCULPTURE'S TORCH,
A FURTIVE FIGURE
SPLASHES LIGHT
INTO THE SHADOWS,
HIS VOICE HISSING
IN HOARSE WHISPER...

BATMAN...YOU
HERE?

I AM!

YOU LEFT A
MESSAGE WITH
COMMISSIONER
GORDON ASKING
ME TO MEET
YOU HERE?

YEAH...I WANNA
MAKE A *TRADE!*
IN EXCHANGE FOR
PROTECTION, I'LL
TELL YOU HOW
YOU CAN NAB
DR. DARRK--

--AND BUST THE
*LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS* WIDE
OPEN!

WHY?
WHAT
DO YOU
GAIN?

MY LIFE! SEE, I
CROSSED DARRK...
HE'LL GET ME
UNLESS YOU GET
HIM FIRST!

EVEN AS THE BATMAN AND
THE COWED CRIMINAL CONFER,
A PAIR OF CLOAKED FORMS
SLITHERS STEALTHILY TOWARD
THEM...

THE DEAL I
WANTA MAKE
IS...

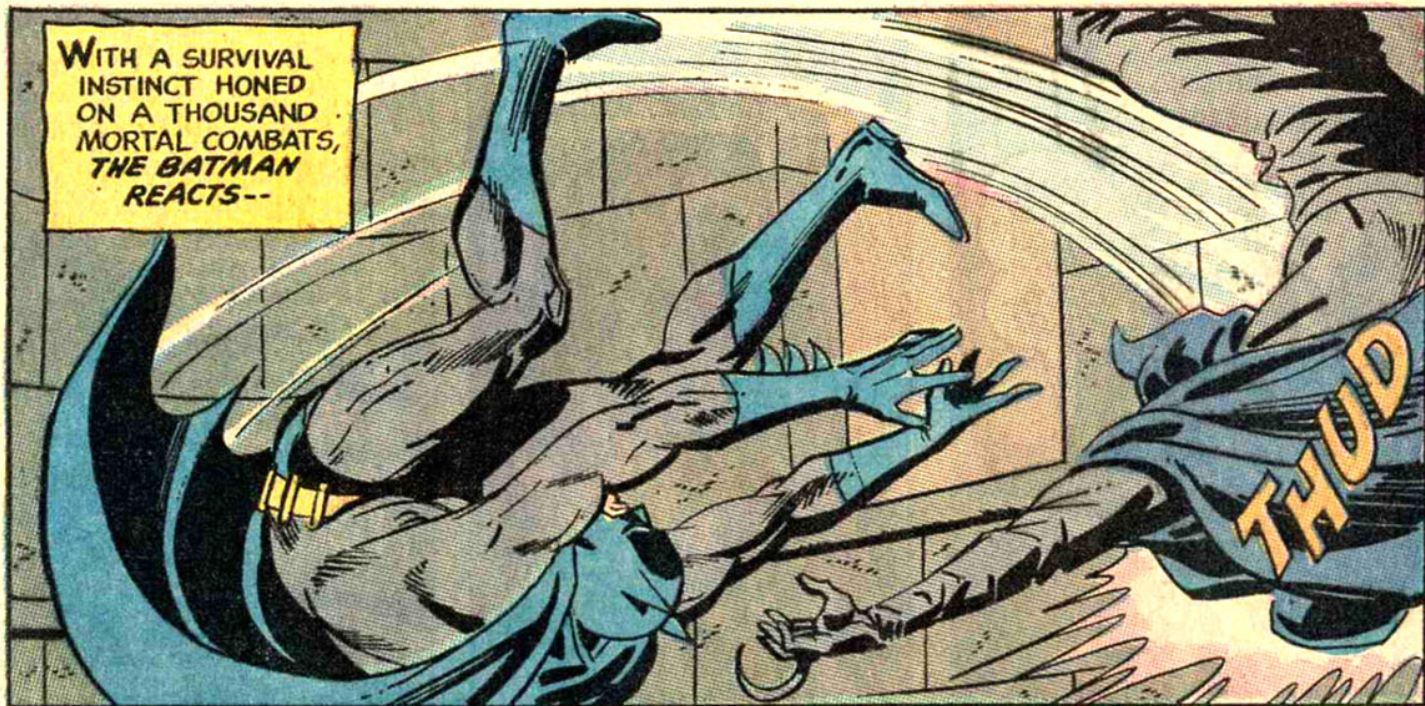
GYAHHH!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER--?

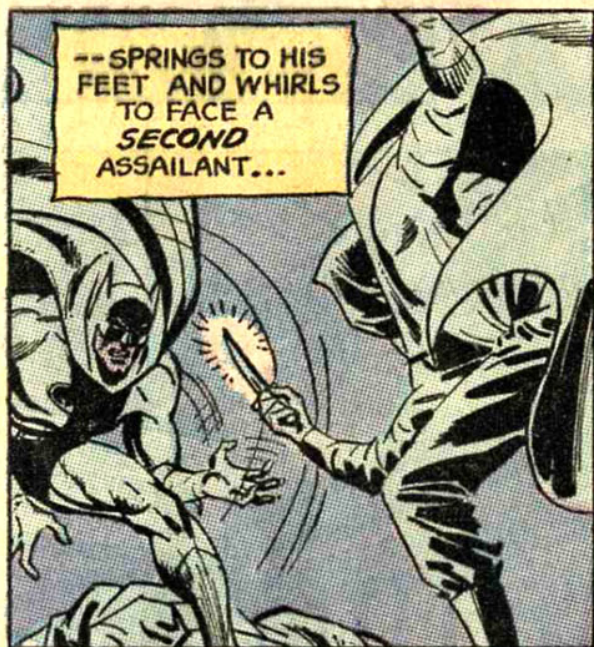
DEATH TO OUR
FOES--! DEATH
TO ALL FOES
OF OUR
LEAGUE--

--INCLUDING
THE BATMAN!

WITH A SURVIVAL
INSTINCT HONED
ON A THOUSAND
MORTAL COMBATS,
THE BATMAN
REACTS--



--SPRINGS TO HIS
FEET AND WHIRLS
TO FACE A
SECOND
ASSAILANT...



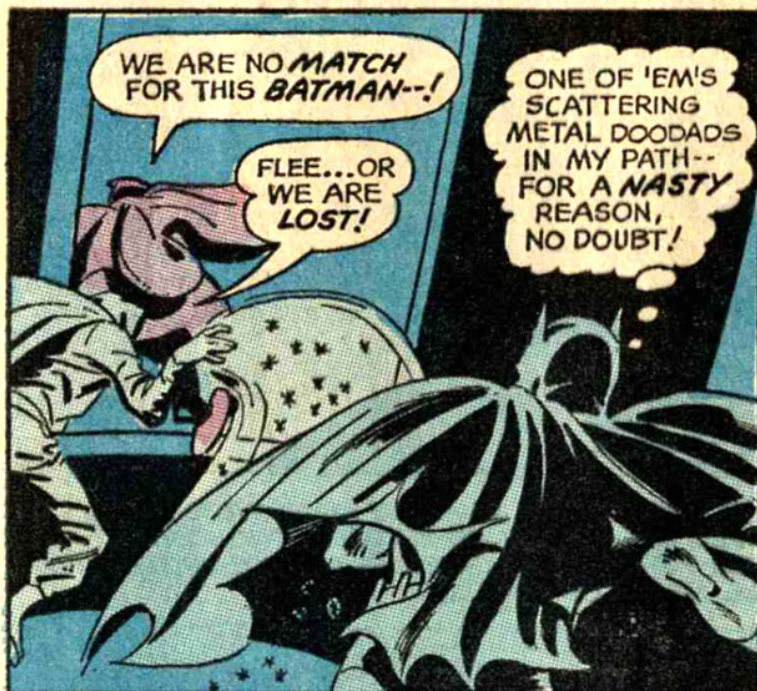
--FOR HE IS
MASTER OF
ALL FIGHTING
ARTS, HIS
SUPERB SKILL
MATCHED
ONLY BY HIS
COURAGE!...



WE ARE NO **MATCH**
FOR THIS **BATMAN**--!

FLEE...OR
WE ARE
LOST!

ONE OF 'EM'S
SCATTERING
METAL DOODADS
IN MY PATH--
FOR A **NASTY**
REASON,
NO DOUBT!



AS I THOUGHT! A **JAPANESE**
TETSU-BISHI... A SIX-PROLONGED
TACK WITH RAZOR POINTS!

IF ONE OF THESE HAD
GONE THROUGH MY
BOOT-SOLE, I'D BE OUT
OF ACTION BUT **GOOD--**
CRIPPLED!

BAAT... BAAT-MAN-N...





HE'S PALE AS A GRAVESTONE...

STEADY, FELLA!
I'LL RUSH
YOU TO A
DOCTOR--

N-NO
GOOD...
POISON
ON
CLAW...
DYING!



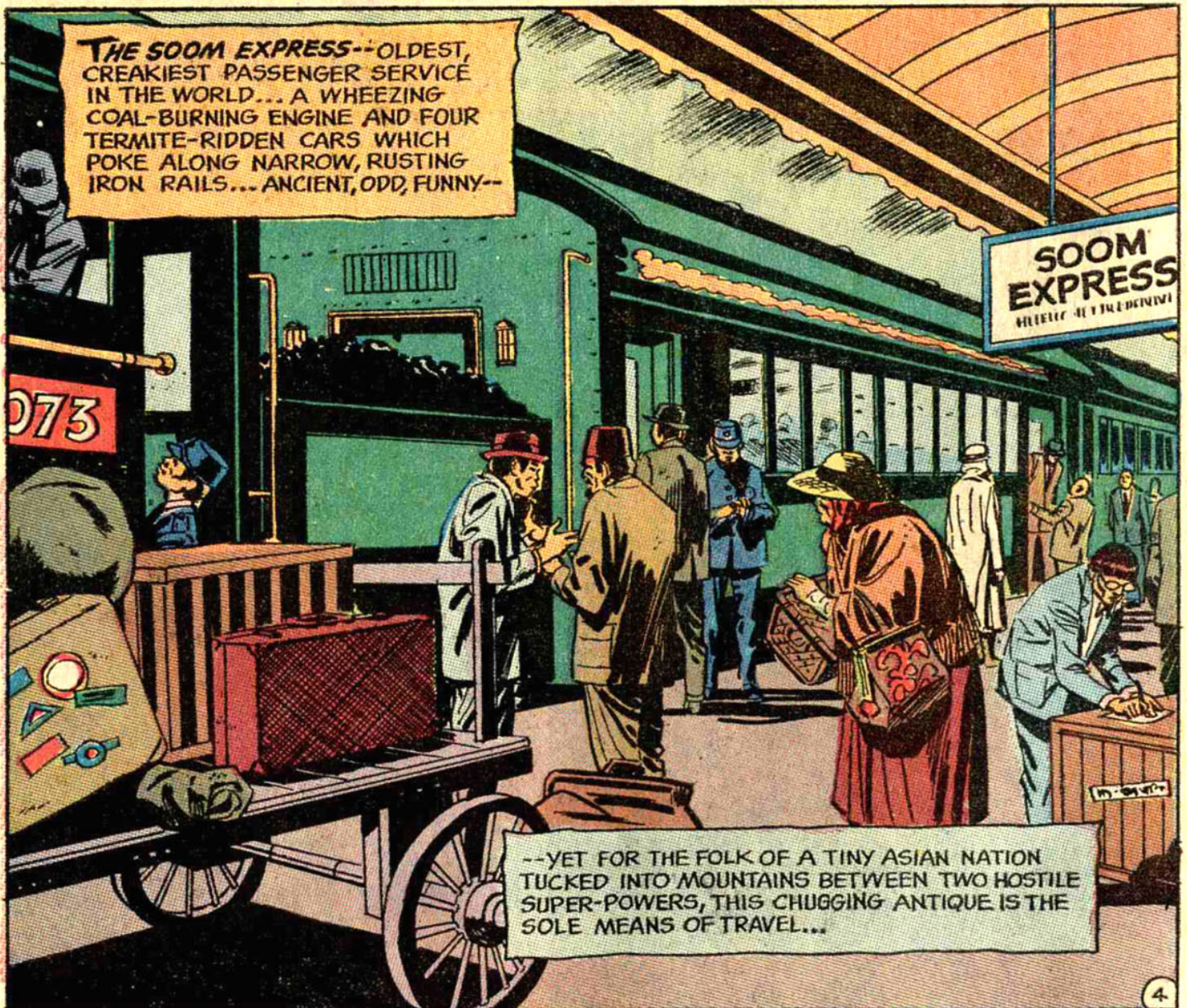
FILTHY... DOG DARRK...
BE ON SOOM EXPRESS
NEXT TUESDA... AAGHHH!



ANOTHER OF DARRK'S
VICTIMS-- DEAD!
KILLED IN MY
PRESENCE--!

THE LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS HAS
BESTED ME
ONCE MORE!

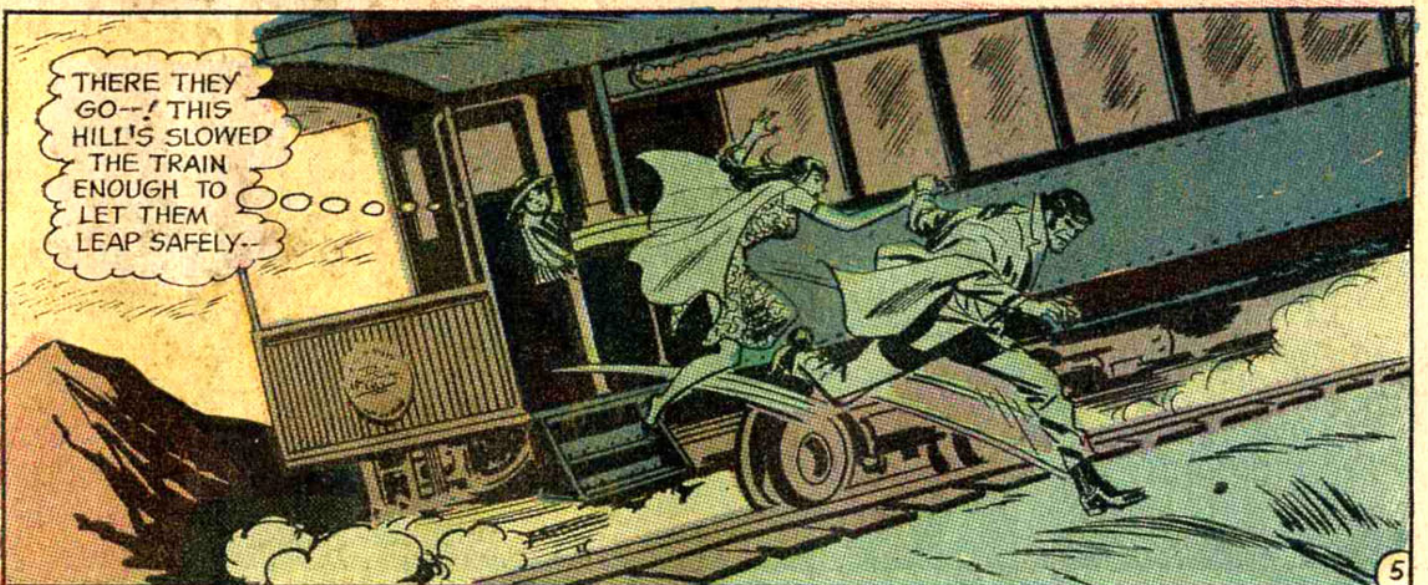
BUT IT
WON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN--
I SWEAR
IT
WON'T!



THE SOOM EXPRESS--OLDEST,
CREAKIEST PASSENGER SERVICE
IN THE WORLD... A WHEEZING
COAL-BURNING ENGINE AND FOUR
TERMITE-RIDDEN CARS WHICH
POKE ALONG NARROW, RUSTING
IRON RAILS... ANCIENT, ODD, FUNNY--

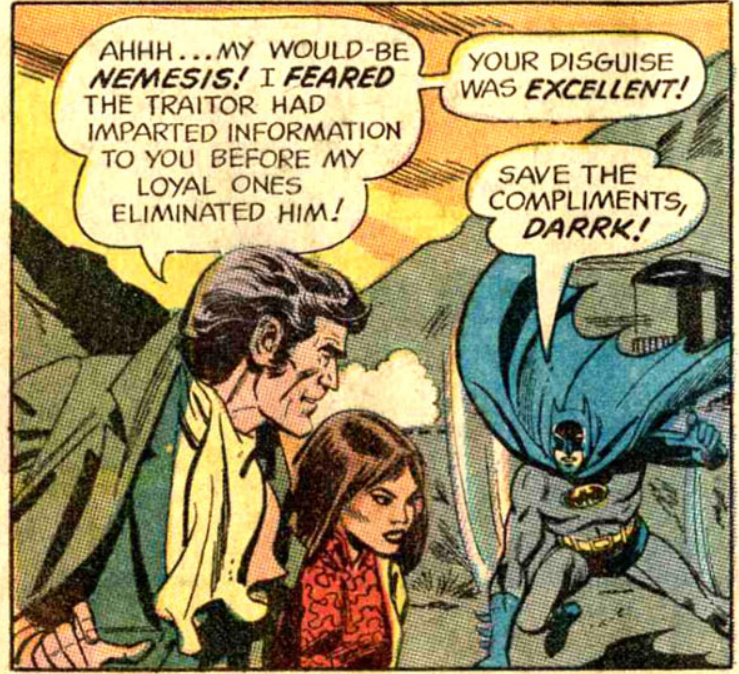
SOOM
EXPRESS
HURRY AT THE DEPARTURE

--YET FOR THE FOLK OF A TINY ASIAN NATION
TUCKED INTO MOUNTAINS BETWEEN TWO HOSTILE
SUPER-POWERS, THIS CHUGGING ANTIQUE IS THE
SOLE MEANS OF TRAVEL...





-- SO IT SHOULDN'T
BE ANY TRICK FOR
A **BATMAN**
TO DO LIKEWISE!



AHHH...MY WOULD-BE
NEMESIS! I **FEARED**
THE TRAITOR HAD
IMPARTED INFORMATION
TO YOU BEFORE MY
LOYAL ONES
ELIMINATED HIM!

YOUR DISGUISE
WAS **EXCELLENT!**

SAVE THE
COMPLIMENTS,
DARRK!



I CAN **AFFORD** TO BE
GENEROUS WITH **WORDS...**
FOR I **PREPARED** FOR
YOUR POSSIBLE ARRIVAL!

AS YOU SEE, YOU
ARE **SURROUNDED--**
BY THE FINEST
TRAINED ASSASSINS
ON EARTH!



I SUPPOSE IT WOULD
BE IN VAIN TO TELL YOU
ESCAPE IS **HOPELESS...**
RESISTANCE **FUTILE!**

THEREFORE...**AT HIM,**
LOYAL ONES! BE
WORTHY OF YOUR
PROFESSION!



WILL
THEY
DESTROY
THE
BATMAN?

NO... SUCH IS
THEIR ABILITY THAT
THEY NEED KILL
ONLY WHEN THEY
COMMANDED TO--

-- AND I CHOOSE TO PERMIT
HIM TO REMAIN **ALIVE!**

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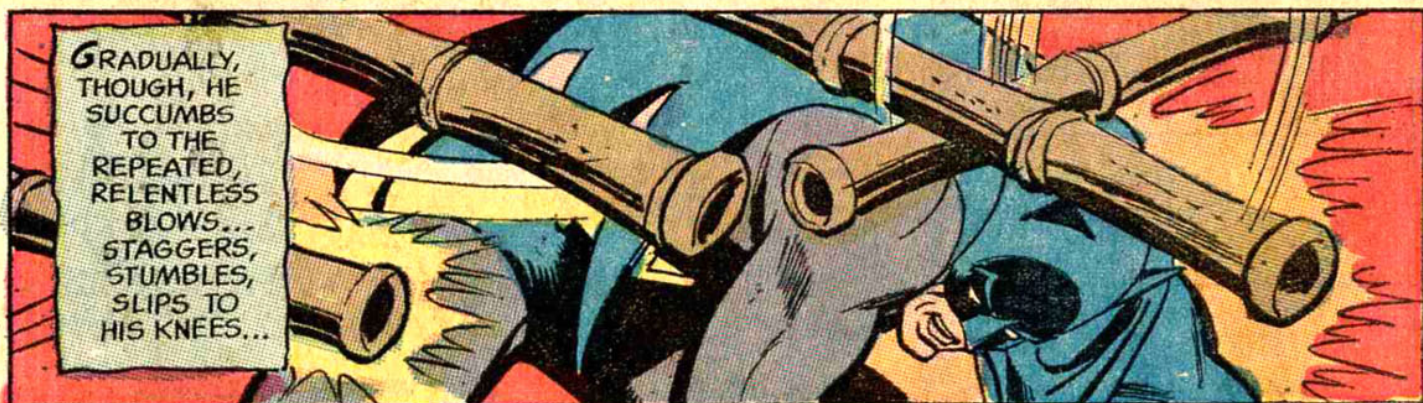
FOR LONG MINUTES,
THE BATMAN RESISTS
THE FLAILING **BO-STICKS**...



...PITTING BOTH STRENGTH AND
DETERMINATION AGAINST THE
WEIGHTED BAMBOO POLES AND
THEIR FLINT-FACED WIELDERS...



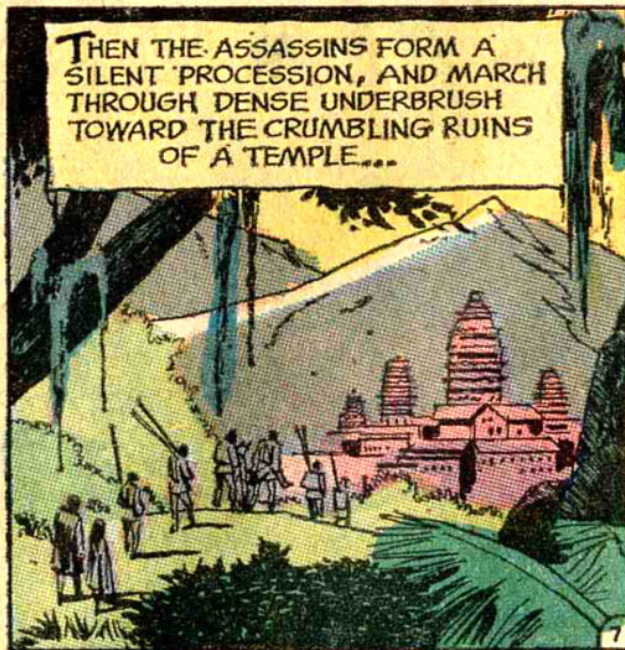
GRADUALLY,
THOUGH, HE
SUCCUMBS
TO THE
REPEATED,
RELENTLESS
BLOWS...
STAGGERS,
STUMBLES,
SLIPS TO
HIS KNEES...



SAVAGELY, THE PACK
SWARMS OVER HIM,
BATTERING, BREAKING—
UNTIL HE HITCHES
FORWARD INTO THE
WELCOME RELIEF
OF OBLIVION...



THEN THE ASSASSINS FORM A
SILENT PROCESSION, AND MARCH
THROUGH DENSE UNDERBRUSH
TOWARD THE CRUMBLING RUINS
OF A TEMPLE...





WITH PAIN BURSTING IN HIS SKULL, **THE BATMAN** REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS -- AND FEELS THE COOL, SURE TOUCH OF A WOMAN'S FINGERS ON HIS BATTERED BROW--

YOU AWAKEN!
THANK THE GODS...
I FEARED YOUR
INJURIES WERE
MORTAL!

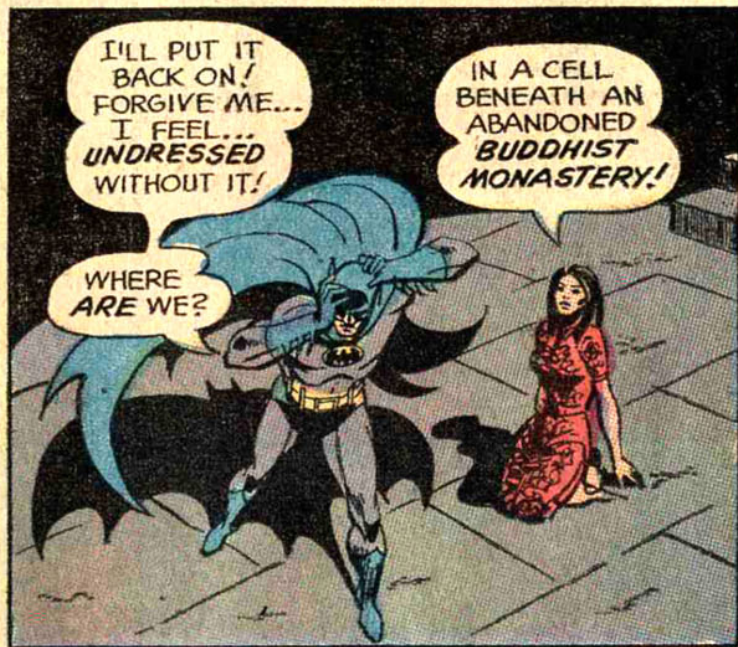
IF THEY'RE NOT,
THEY'LL DO TILL
WORSE ONES
COME ALONG--!



MY
MASK--!

I **HAD** TO REMOVE IT...
YOUR FACE IS MUCH
WOUNDED! YOU LOOK
FAMILIAR-- SOMEONE
I HAVE SEEN IN A
PHOTOGRAPH, PERHAPS?

BUT SO **BRUISED**
ARE YOU I CAN-
NOT BE CERTAIN!



I'LL PUT IT
BACK ON!
FORGIVE ME...
I FEEL...
UNDRESSED
WITHOUT IT!

IN A CELL
BENEATH AN
ABANDONED
BUDDHIST
MONASTERY!

WHERE
ARE WE?



ARE YOU
DARRK'S
ENEMY,
TOO?

IN A WAY... MY
FATHER AND THE
DOCTOR HAVE
HAD A **FALLING**
OUT OVER SOME
SORT OF BUSINESS--

AND **DARRK** IS
HOLDING YOU
HOSTAGE, EH?



YES... I AM **TALIA**, DAUGHTER
OF HE WHO IS CALLED
RÄ'S AL GHUL!*

DARRK'S HENCHMEN
CAPTURED ME AT
THE **UNIVERSITY**
OF **CAIRO!** I
STUDY **MEDICINE**
THERE, AND...

I **HATE** TO
INTERRUPT
THIS **CHARMING**
INTRODUCTION...

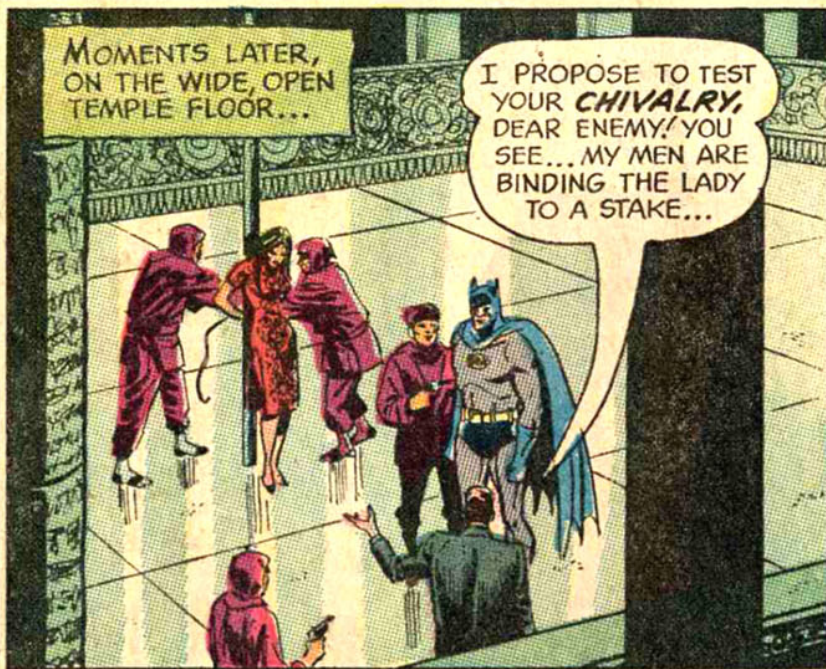
***EDITOR'S NOTE:** IN ARABIC, "THE DEMON'S
HEAD"! LITERALLY, **AL GHUL** SIGNIFIES A
MISCHIEF-MAKER, AND APPEARS AS THE
GHOUL OF THE **ARABIAN NIGHTS!**

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING



IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO RENDER YOU MY **SLAVE** WITH DRUGS, **BATMAN!** HOWEVER, SUCH A **COURAGEOUS** ADVERSARY DESERVES A CHANCE TO DIE IN **BATTLE!**

MY MEN WILL ESCORT YOU AND THE LADY TO THE UPPER LEVEL...WHERE I HAVE PREPARED A **MOST DROLL** AMUSEMENT!



MOMENTS LATER, ON THE WIDE, OPEN TEMPLE FLOOR...

I PROPOSE TO TEST YOUR **CHIVALRY**, DEAR ENEMY! YOU SEE... MY MEN ARE BINDING THE LADY TO A STAKE...



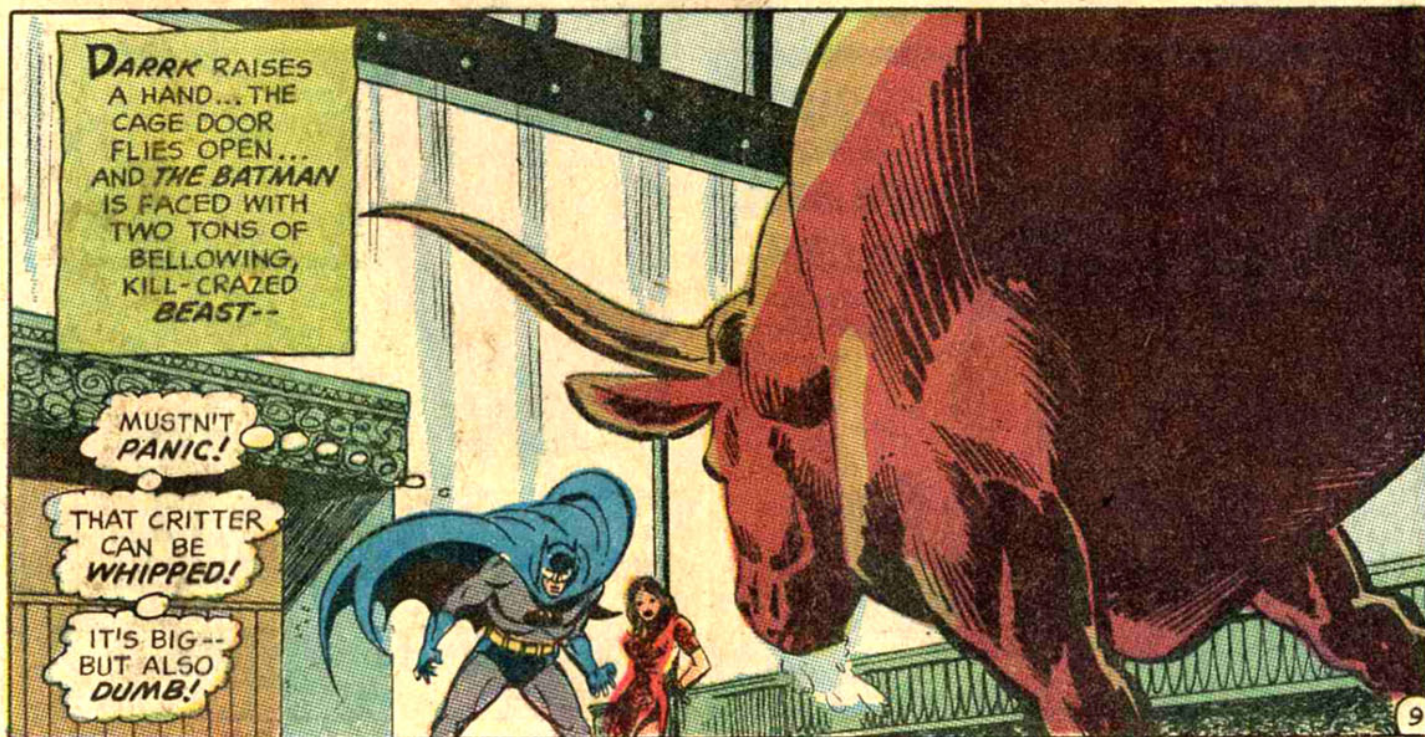
... AND **BEHOLD!**-- AT THE FAR END OF THE AREA, A CAGED **BULL!** -- MOST **FIERCE**, I ASSURE YOU!



AT MY SIGNAL, THE ANIMAL WILL BE **RELEASED**, AND YOU WILL HAVE A **CHOICE**--

--EITHER RUN AND SAVE YOURSELF... OR STAY AND PROTECT MISS **TALIA!**

EITHER WAY, THE RESULTS SHOULD PROVE **HIGHLY** ENTERTAINING!

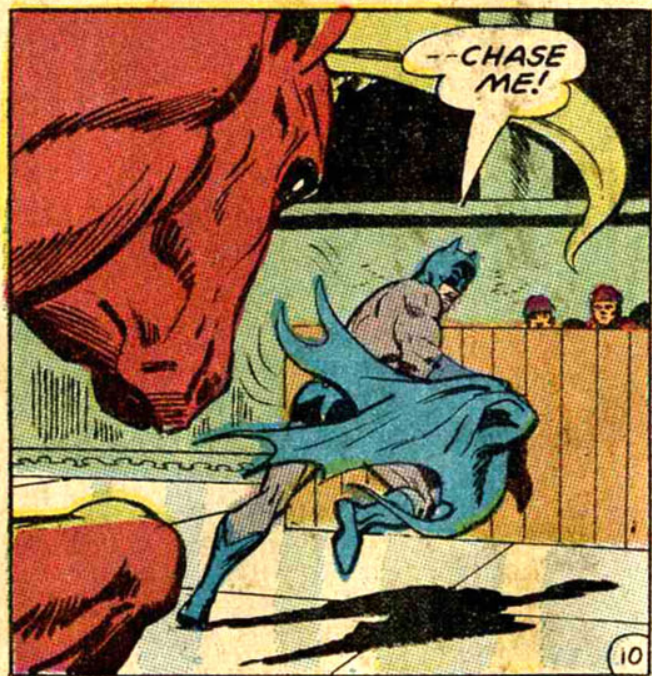
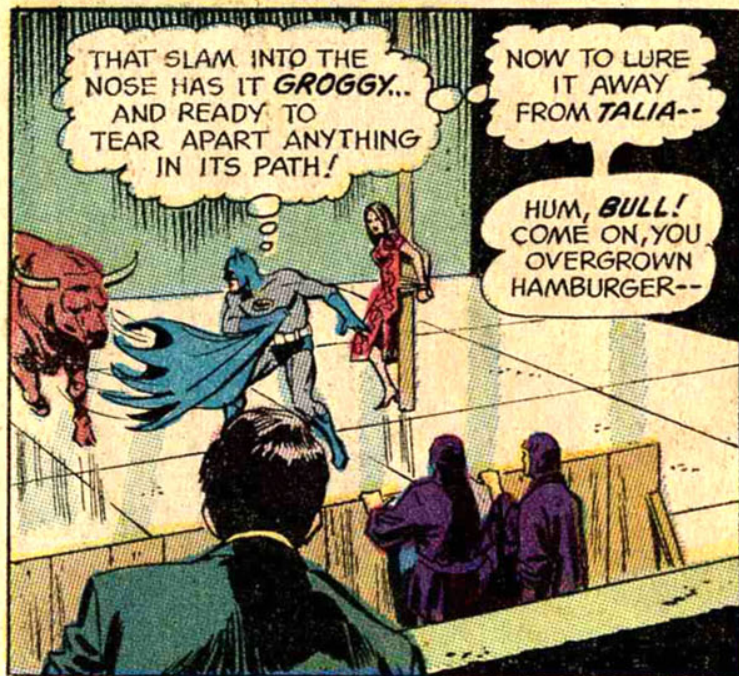
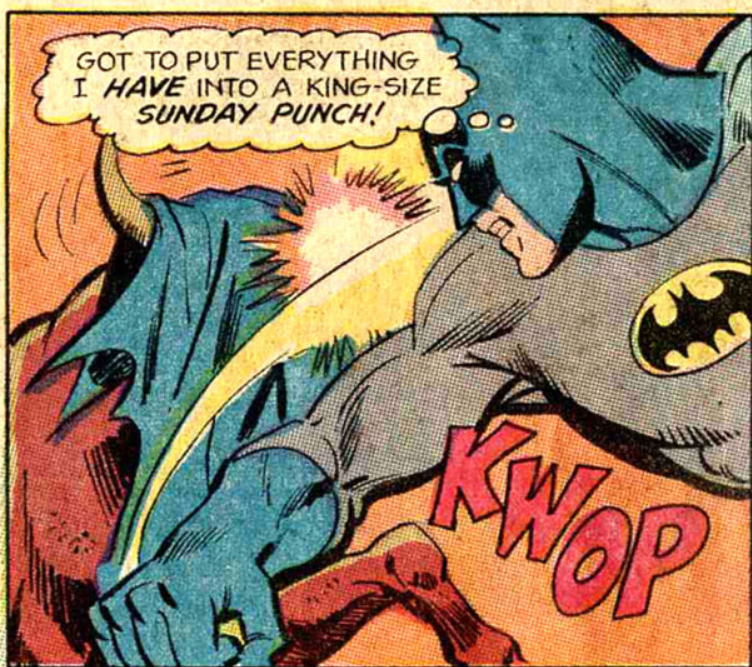
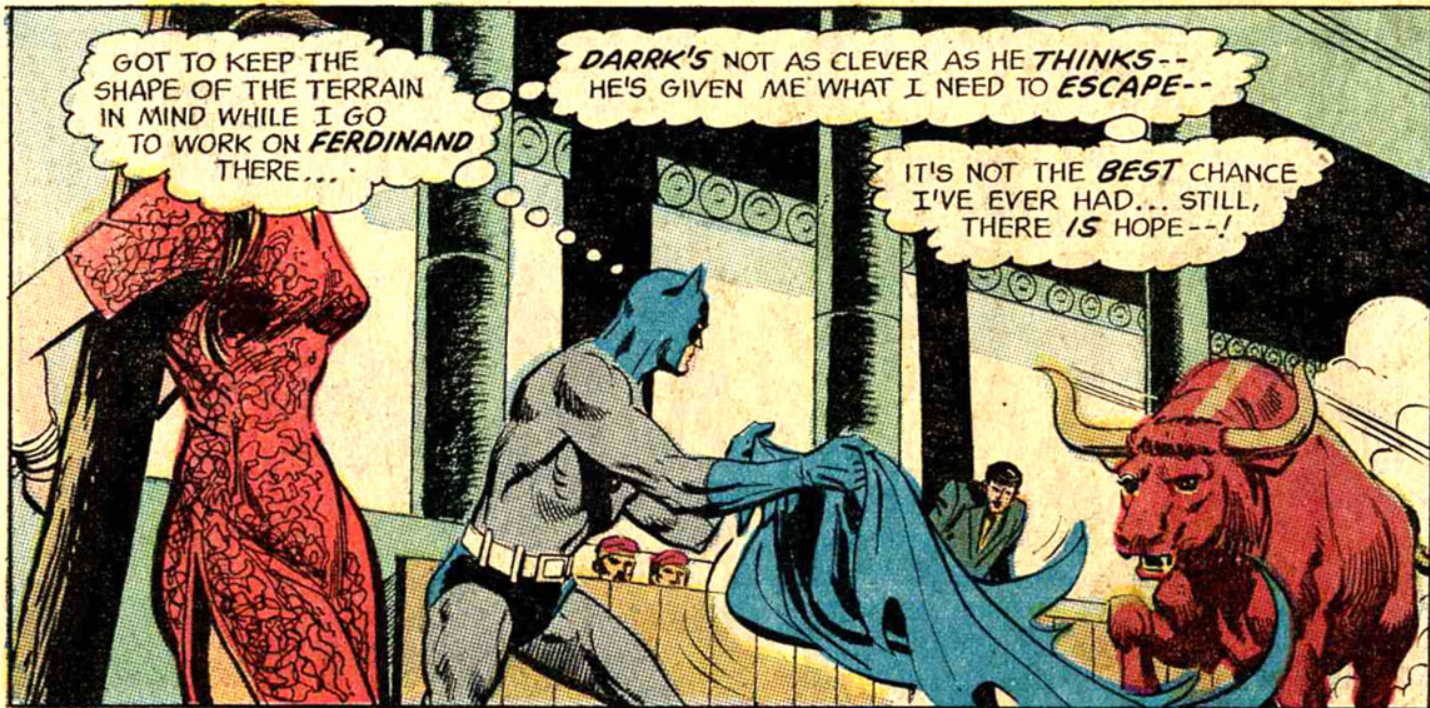


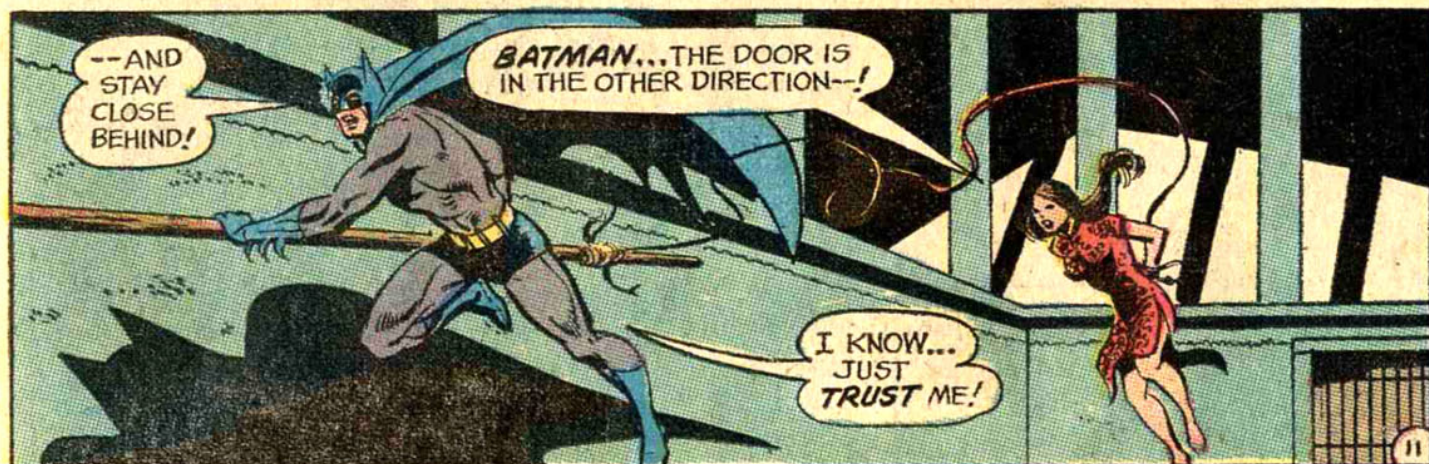
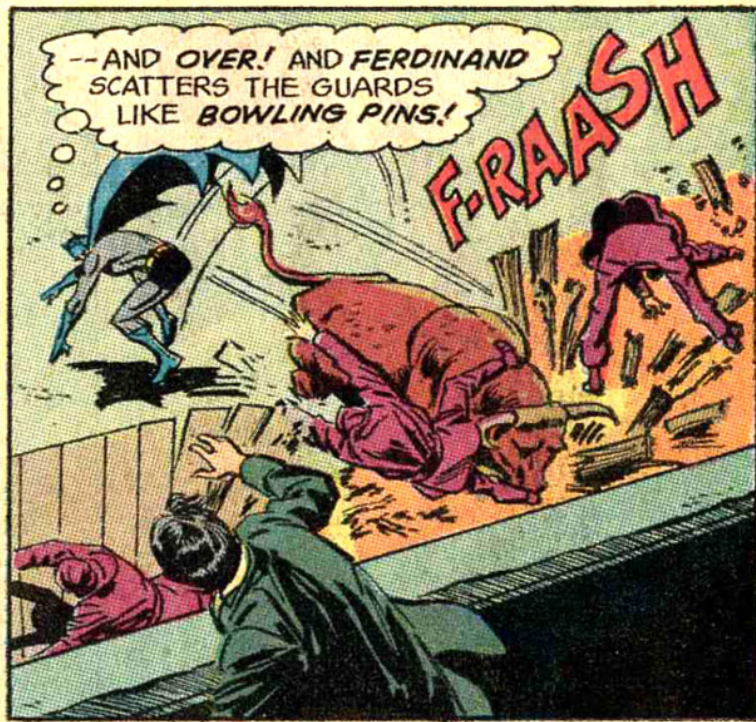
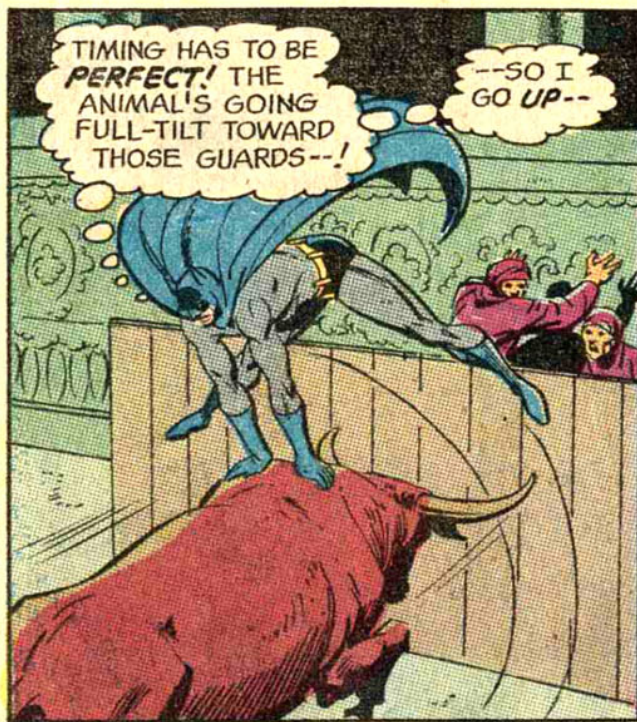
DARRK RAISES A HAND...THE CAGE DOOR FLIES OPEN... AND THE **BATMAN** IS FACED WITH TWO TONS OF BELLOWING, KILL-CRAZED **BEAST**--

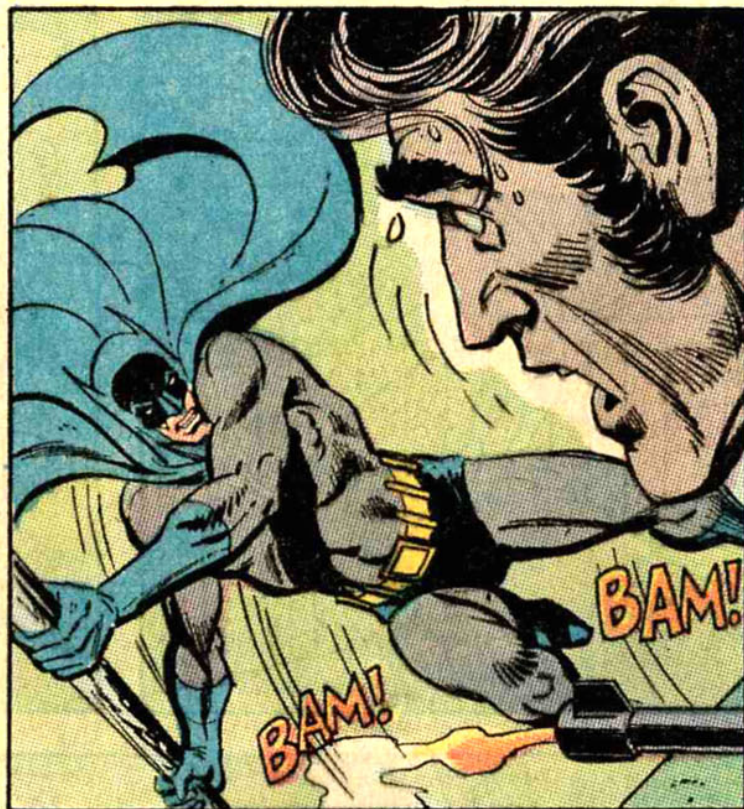
MUSTN'T **PANIC!**

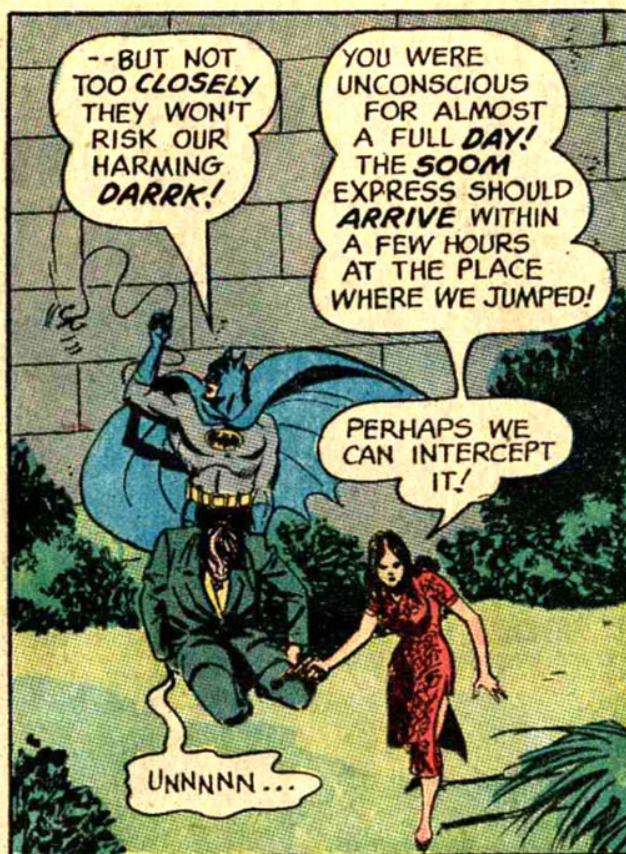
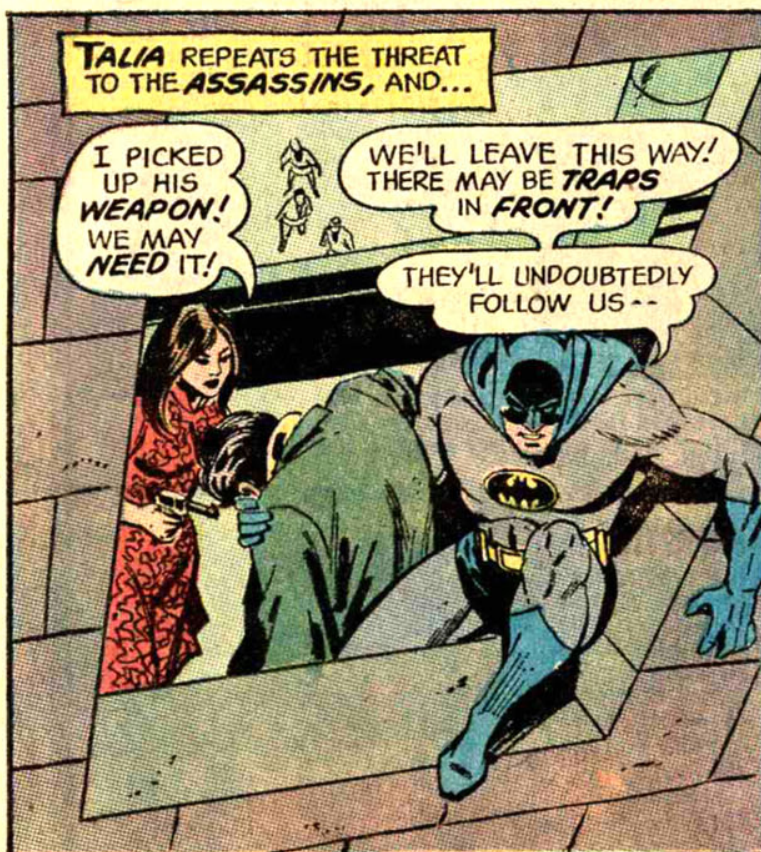
THAT CRITTER CAN BE **WHIPPED!**

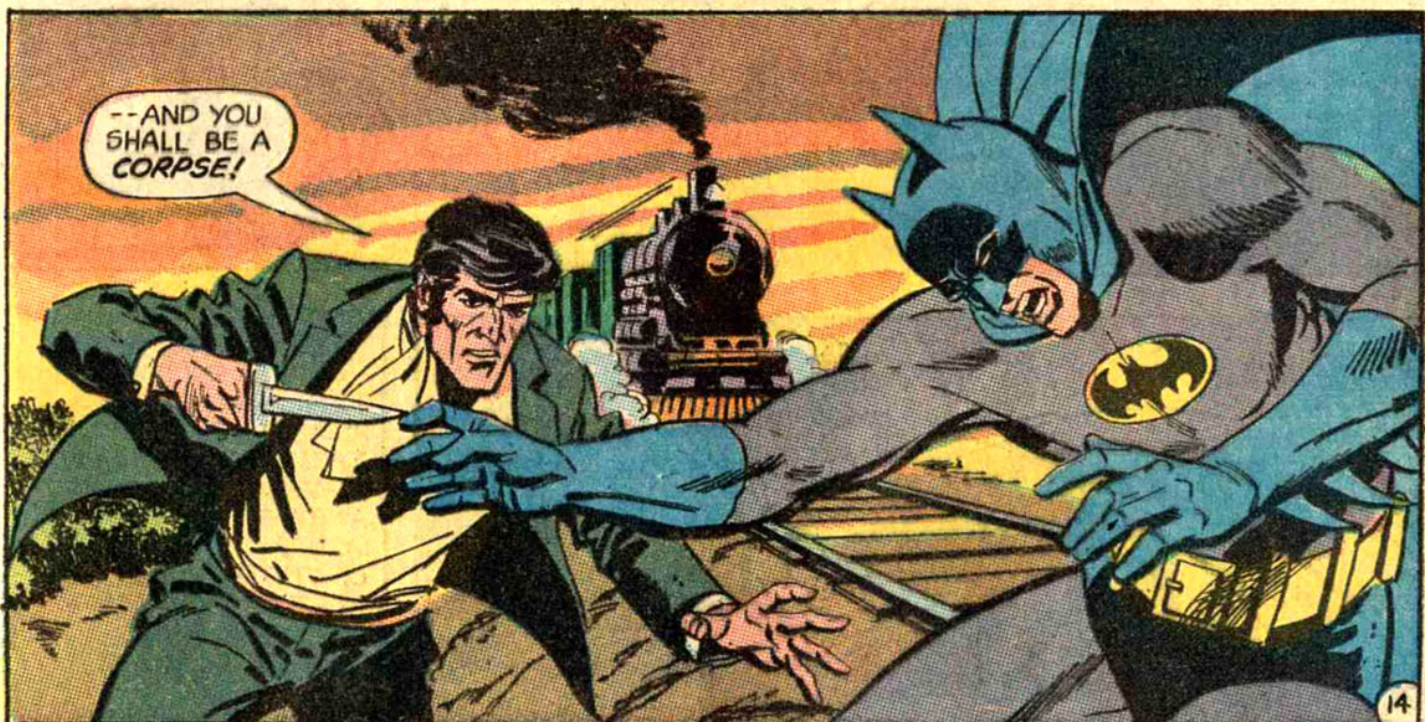
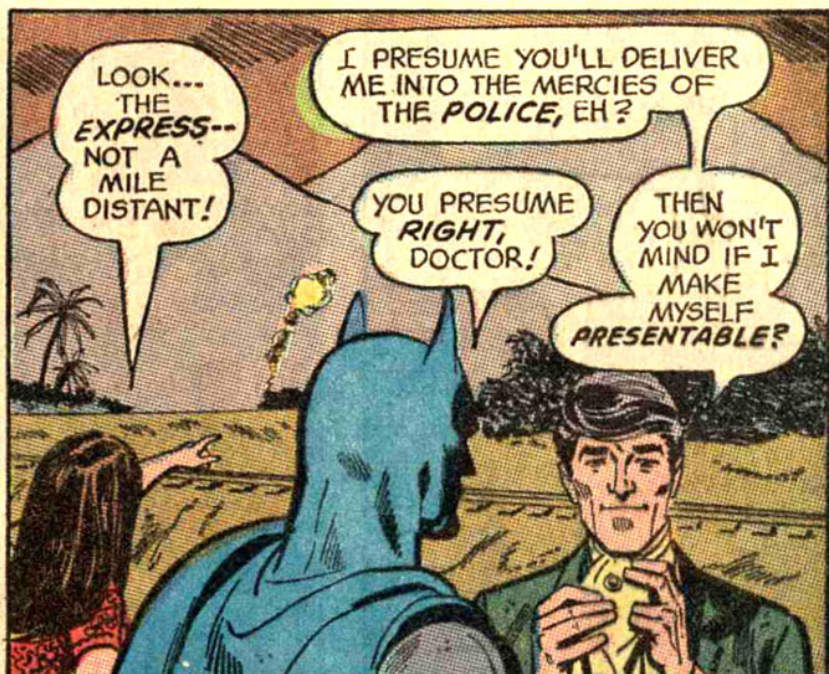
IT'S BIG-- BUT ALSO **DUMB!**

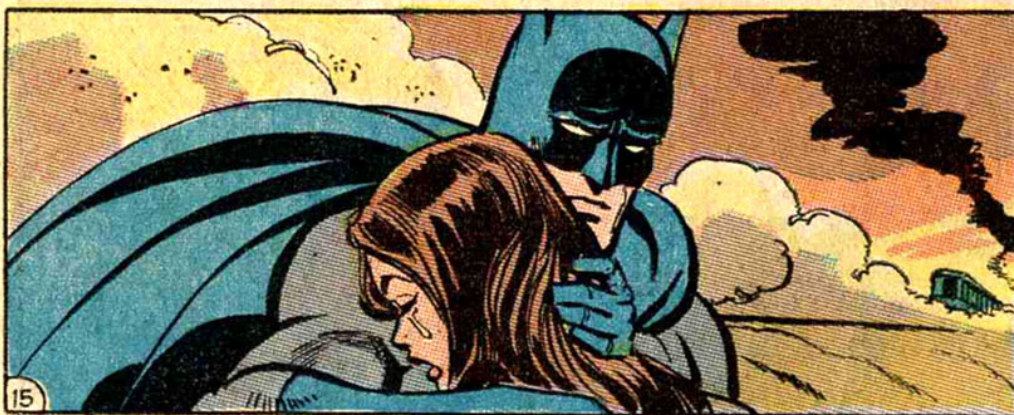
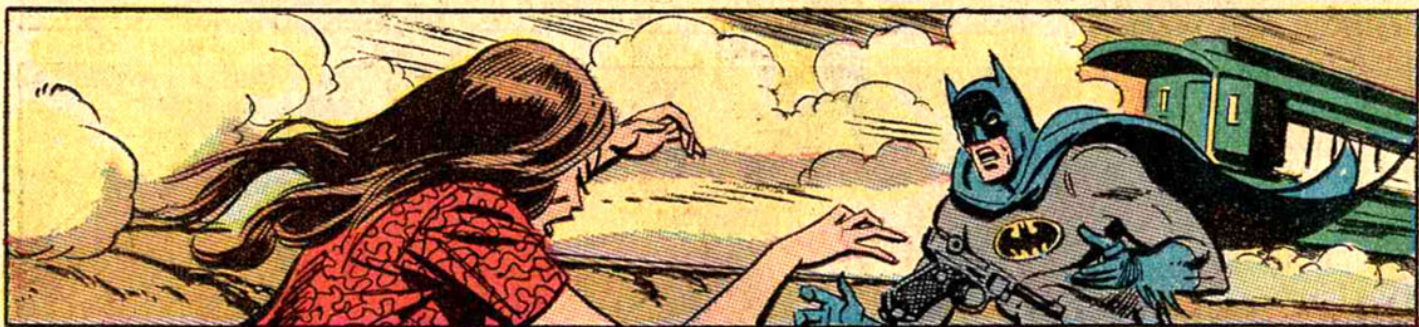
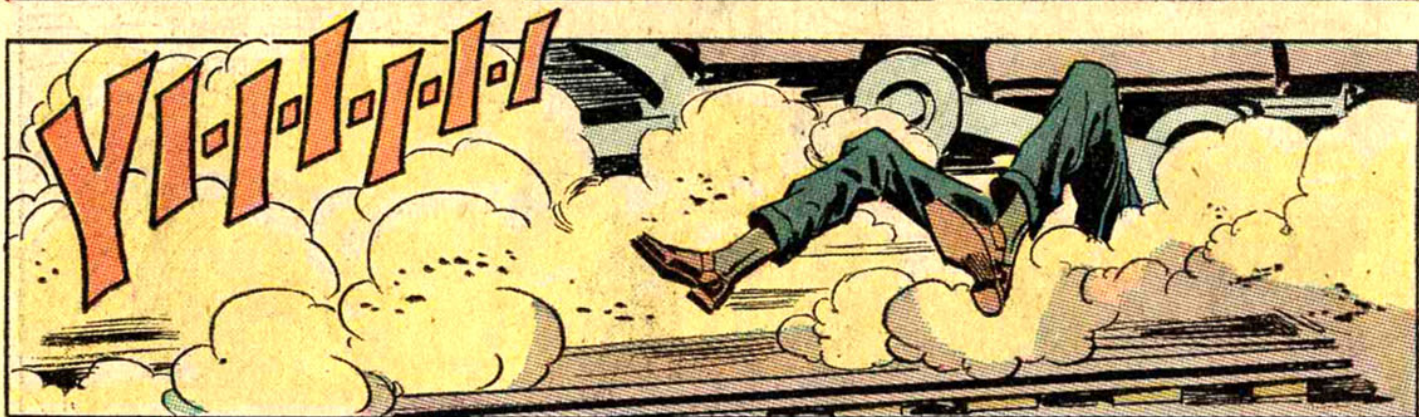












THUS, DR. DARRK'S CAREER ENDS WITH A FINAL, SHRILL SCREAM... AND AS TALIA SINKS TREMBLING INTO THE BATMAN'S EMBRACE, A NEW EPISODE BEGINS! DON'T MISS "DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON" IN THE JUNE BATMAN-- ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 22ND!

DC BATMAN



15¢

BATMAN

WITH **ROBIN** THE TEEN WONDER



NO. 232
JUNE
30050

WHEN I DECIDE
ROBIN **MUST**
DIE--

--HE
DIES!



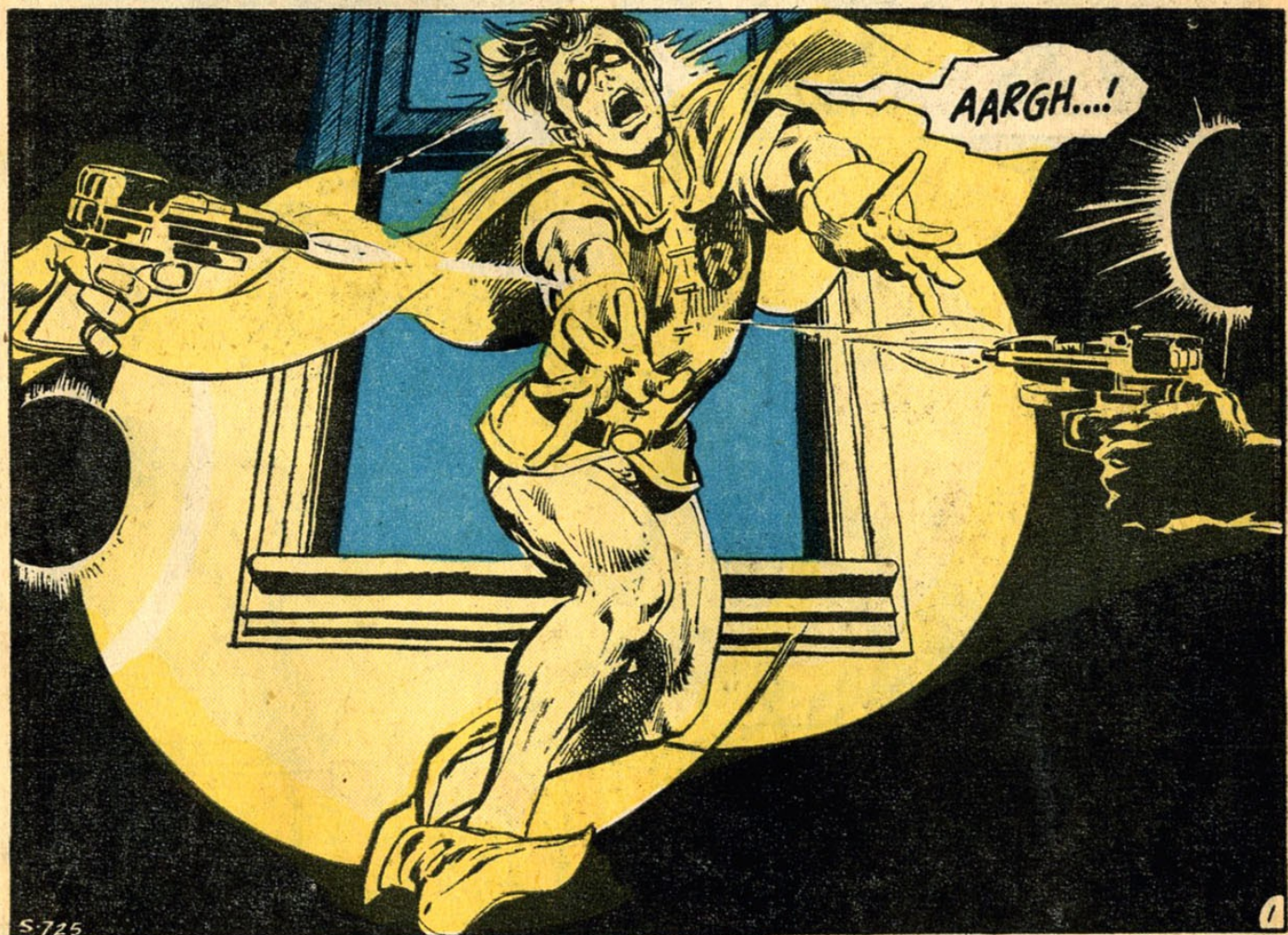
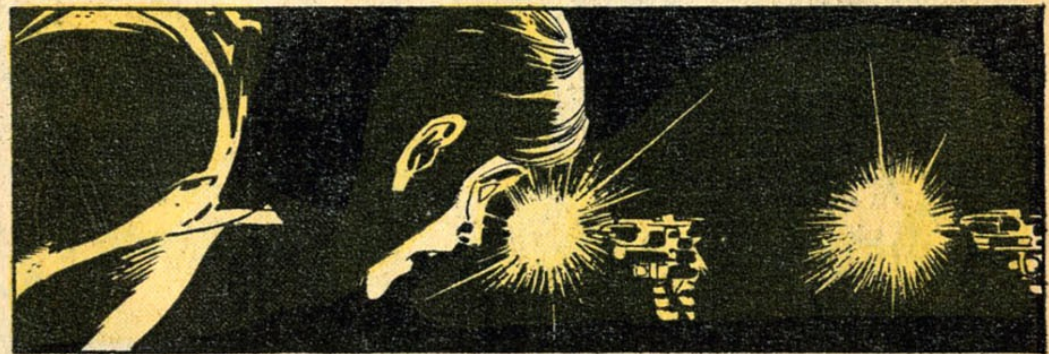
A TALE TO **HAUNT**
YOU FOREVER--

'DAUGHTER
of the **DEMON!**

NIGHT... A COLORFULLY CLAD FIGURE SLIDES SILENTLY THROUGH THE SHADOWS TOWARD A BOARDING HOUSE NEAR HUDSON UNIVERSITY. HE SHINNIES SWIFTLY UP A DRAINPIPE... THEN PAUSES AT AN OPEN WINDOW...



WHO IS THAT...?
WHO'S THERE?



S-725

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HOURS LATER, AT THE LAVISH GOTHAM CITY PENTHOUSE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...

NO GOOD! NO ONE AT THE UNIVERSITY'S SEEN DICK FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS-- HE'S **VANISHED...** AND THAT **HAS TO MEAN TROUBLE!**

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MASTER BRUCE--

A MESSENGER JUST LEFT THIS MISSIVE WITH THE DOORMAN!



YOUNG MASTER DICK--!?

YES, ALFRED... AS I FEARED! HE'S A CAPTIVE... OR WORSE!

Dear Batman
We have Robin!
save him if you
can!

STORY BY:
PENNY O'NEIL

THE DREAD **BATMAN** IS NO STRANGER TO PERIL... FOR HE HAS PITTED HIS STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND INTELLIGENCE AGAINST THE DEADLIEST OF FOES, THE MOST INGENIOUS OF CRIMINALS... YET NO QUEST HAS EVER TAKEN HIM CLOSER TO DEATH THAN HIS SEARCH FOR THE--

DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON

ART BY:
NEAL ADAMS &
DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY:
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

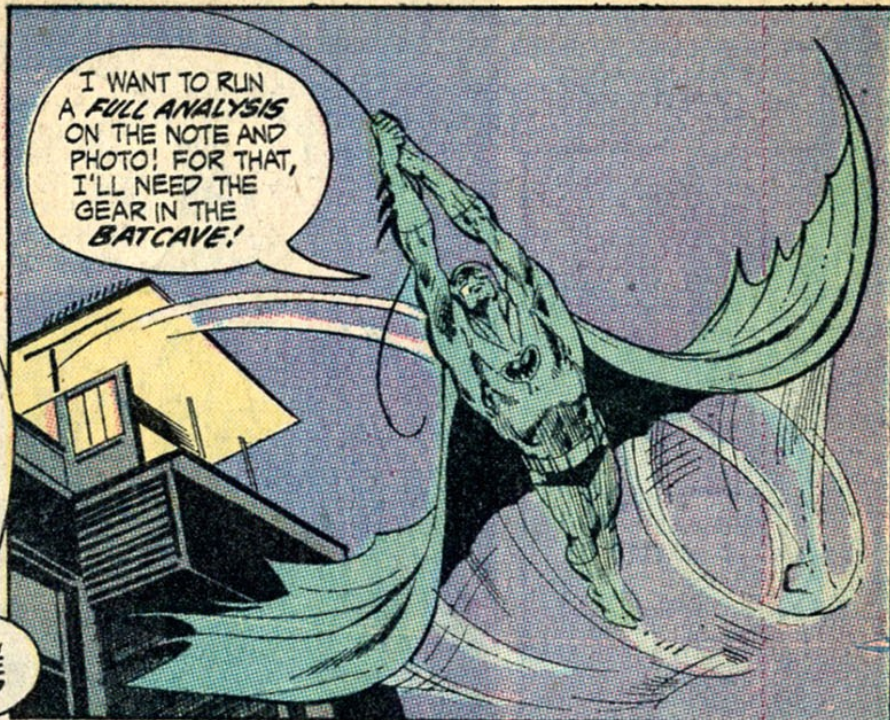


CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS, ALFRED!

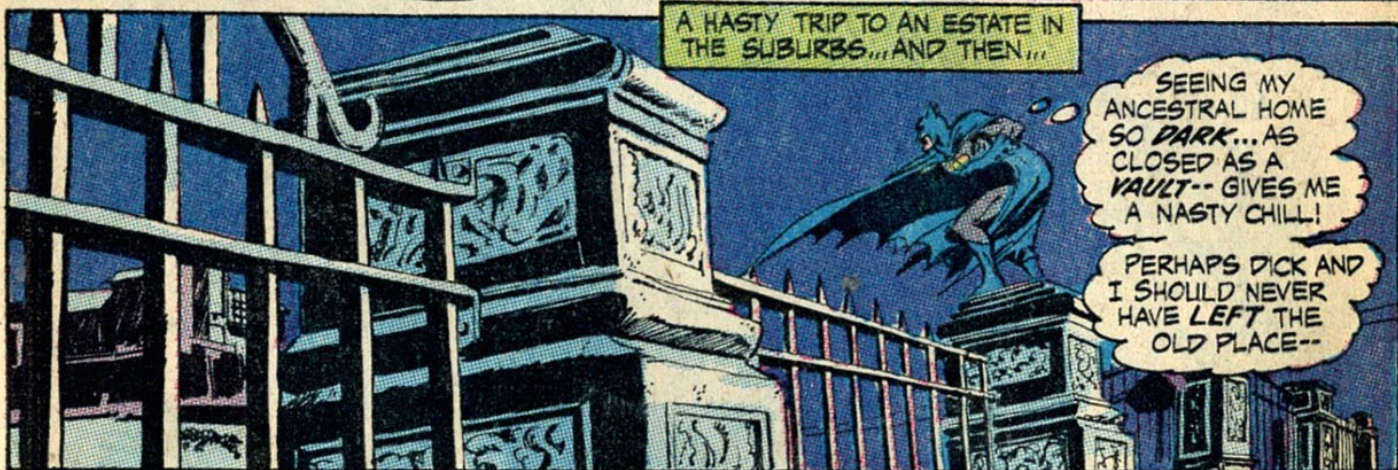
I'M UN-AVAILABLE TO EVERY-ONE!

BRUCE WAYNE WILL HAVE TO VACATION IF THE BATMAN IS TO FIND HIS WARD!

MAY I ASK, SIR, WHERE YOU ARE BOUND FIRST?



I WANT TO RUN A **FULL ANALYSIS** ON THE NOTE AND PHOTO! FOR THAT, I'LL NEED THE GEAR IN THE **BATCAVE!**



A HASTY TRIP TO AN ESTATE IN THE SUBURBS...AND THEN...

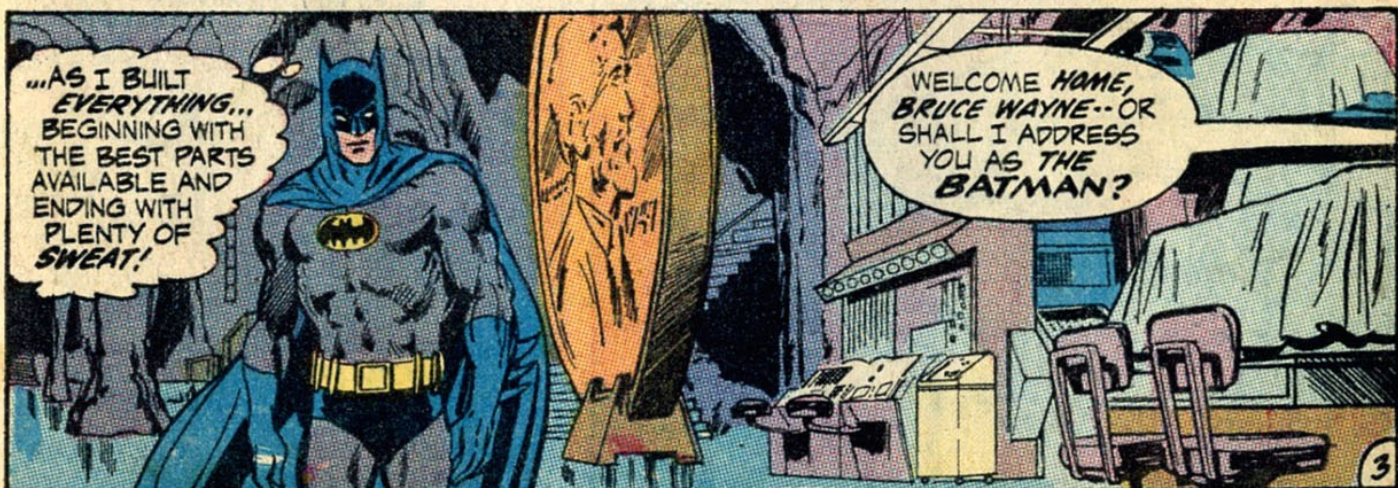
SEEING MY ANCESTRAL HOME SO **DARK**...AS CLOSED AS A **VAULT**-- GIVES ME A NASTY CHILL!

PERHAPS DICK AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE **LEFT** THE OLD PLACE--



BUT TIMES CHANGE AND PEOPLE MUST CHANGE WITH THEM!

THE ORIGINAL CONCEALED ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE STILL WORKS **PERFECTLY!** I BUILT IT TO **LAST**...



...AS I BUILT **EVERYTHING**... BEGINNING WITH THE BEST PARTS AVAILABLE AND ENDING WITH PLENTY OF **SWEAT!**

WELCOME HOME, **BRUCE WAYNE**-- OR SHALL I ADDRESS YOU AS THE **BATMAN?**

AT THE SOUND OF AN ICY, PENETRATING VOICE, THE CAPED MAN WHIRLS, AND--

WHO ARE YOU? HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE...?

TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I AM PRESENTLY KNOWN AS RĀ'S AL GHŪL! YOU SHALL BE SEEING MUCH OF ME!

TO ANSWER YOUR *SECOND* QUERY...IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER OF *DEDUCTION* AND *RESEARCH*! I REASONED THAT *THE BATMAN* HAD TO BE *WEALTHY*...

...AND THAT HE NEEDED CERTAIN KINDS OF EQUIPMENT! THEREFORE, I MERELY HAD MY ORGANIZATION INVESTIGATE...

...AND YOU FOUND THAT *BRUCE WAYNE* ALONE BOUGHT WHAT *THE BATMAN* HAD TO HAVE, RIGHT? OKAY... THAT'S A HOLE I'LL *PLUG*!

I'M SURPRISED SOMEONE DIDN'T THINK OF IT *YEARS* AGO! NOW, I HAVE A *THIRD* QUESTION... THE *BIG ONE*...

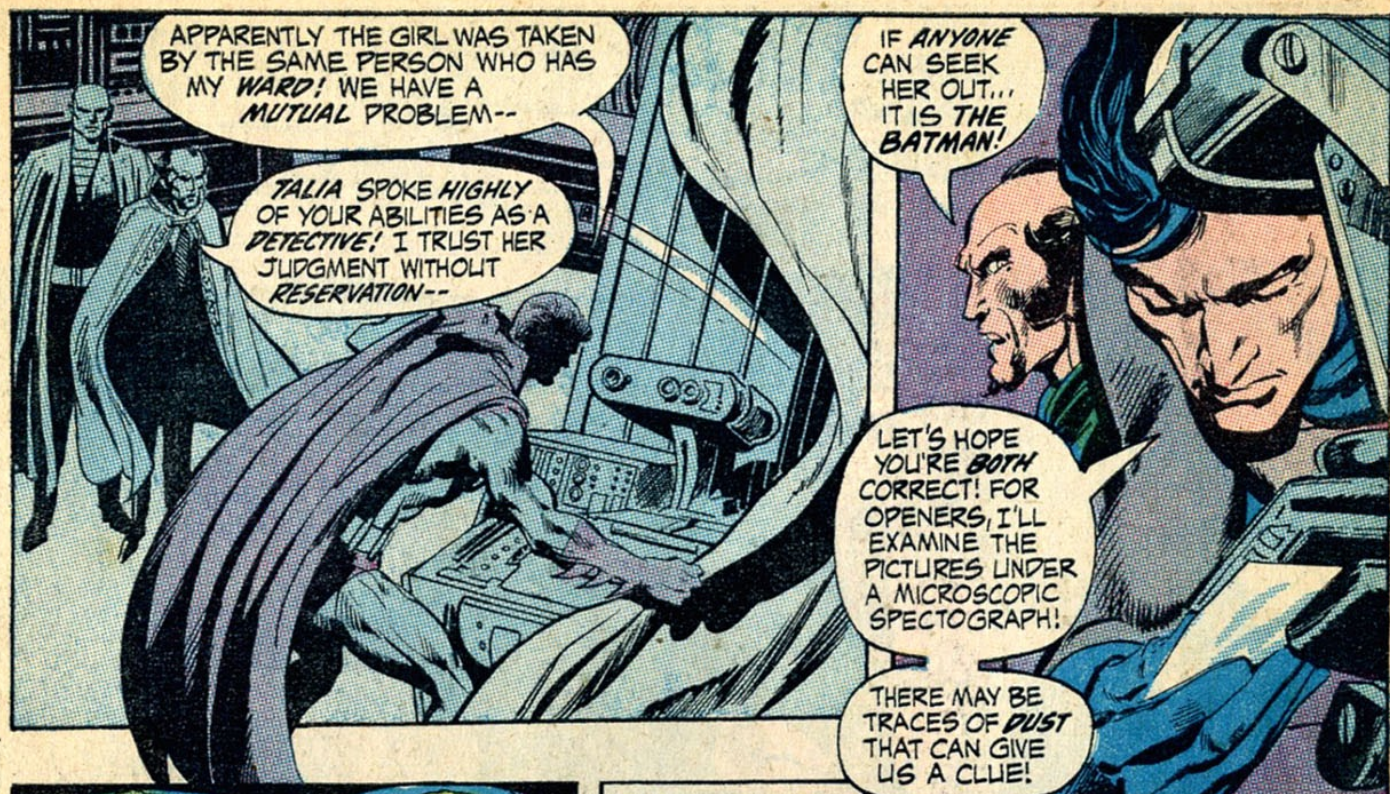
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT...*NEED*... YOUR *HELP*! MY CHILD HAS BEEN *ABDUCTED*! I RECEIVED THIS PHOTOGRAPH BY *MESSENGER*!

THAT'S *TALIA*!--SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?*

Dear Rā's Al Ghūl we have your daughter, save her if you can.

*THE BATMAN SAVED TALIA'S LIFE IN "INTO THE DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS" (DETECTIVE COMICS #411; MAY 1971) AND SHE RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT BY SLAYING THE MURDEROUS DR. DARRK!... EDITOR



APPARENTLY THE GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE SAME PERSON WHO HAS MY *WARD*! WE HAVE A *MUTUAL PROBLEM*--

TALIA SPOKE HIGHLY OF YOUR ABILITIES AS A *DETECTIVE*! I TRUST HER JUDGMENT WITHOUT *RESERVATION*--

IF *ANYONE* CAN SEEK HER OUT... IT IS *THE BATMAN*!

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE *BOTH* CORRECT! FOR OPENERS, I'LL EXAMINE THE PICTURES UNDER A MICROSCOPIC SPECTOGRAPH!

THERE MAY BE TRACES OF *DUST* THAT CAN GIVE US A CLUE!



FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR THE *WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE* BENDS TO HIS TASK! THEN--

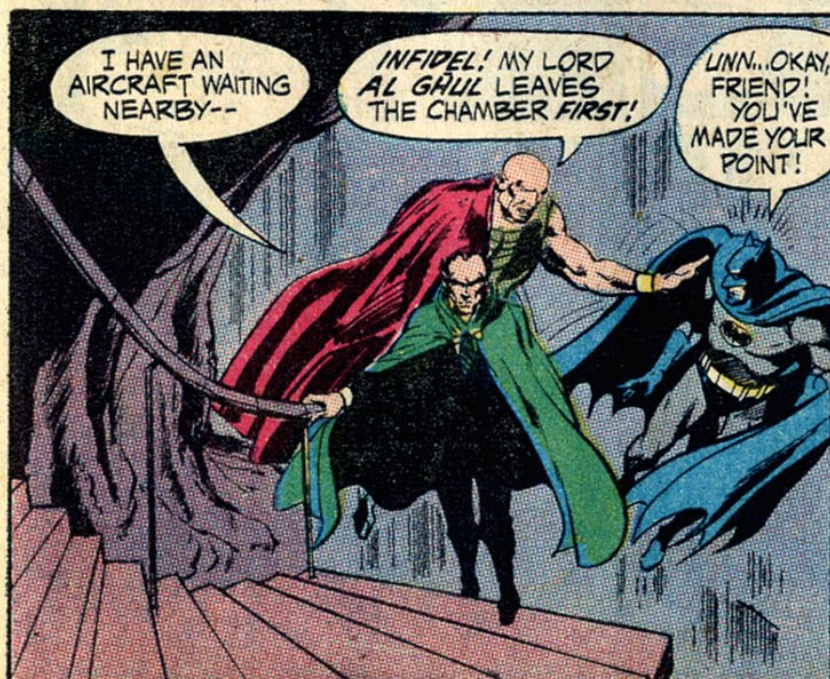
YOU *SMILE*, *BATMAN*! YOU HAVE MADE A *DISCOVERY*?

I THINK SO...

YES...UNMISTAKABLE BITS OF A CERTAIN *HERB*...ONE USED IN CEREMONIES OF A FAR EASTERN CULT OF *KILLERS*!

THEY'RE CALLED THE *BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON*! AND I RECALL THAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN *CALCUTTA*!

WE SHALL PROCEED TO *INDIA* IMMEDIATELY!



I HAVE AN AIRCRAFT WAITING NEARBY--

INFIDEL! MY LORD *AL GHUL* LEAVES THE CHAMBER *FIRST*!

UHN...OKAY, FRIEND! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!



PRAY FORGIVE MY GUARD *UBU*! HE IS TRAINED TO MY *COMPLETE SERVICE*... AND A TRIFLE *OVERZEALOUS*!

HE'S THAT, ALL RIGHT... AND STRONG, TOO!

SOON, THE ODDLY
MIXED TRIO IS
WINGING OVER
AN OCEAN...

AND INSIDE THE LUXURIOUS JET...

YOUR *WARD* AND MY DAUGHTER
ARE IN MORTAL DANGER!
INDEED, *BATMAN*, THEY MAY
ALREADY BE DEAD! YET
YOU SHOW NO SIGNS
OF AGITATION--

NOR DO YOU EXHIBIT
ANY *CURIOSITY*
CONCERNING MY
HUMBLE *SELF*!
HAVE YOU NO
FEELINGS?

PLENTY OF THEM! BUT
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD FOR
ME TO ALLOW MY *EMOTIONS*
TO GAIN CONTROL...

...NOT WHILE THERE'S A *JOB* AHEAD!
FOR YEARS, I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO
CONCENTRATE ON THE THING AT HAND--

LATER, I'LL
CRY... IF I
MUST!

CRY..?
YES,
THERE
HAVE BEEN
TEARS IN
MY LIFE--

BEGINNING WITH THAT SUMMER EVENING SO
LONG AGO! MY PARENTS AND THE CHILD THAT
WAS MYSELF WERE STROLLING HOME FROM A
MOVIE, HAPPY, CONTENT--WHEN SUDDENLY--

I'LL
TAKE THAT
NECKLACE
YOU'RE WEARING,
LADY!

LEAVE HER
ALONE...
AAGH!

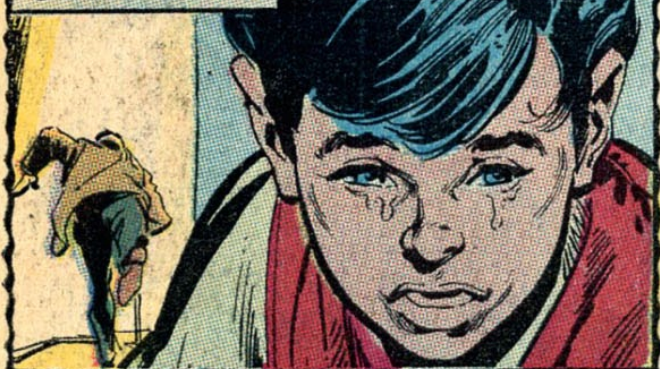
**HELP!
POLICE...
HELP!**

**SHUT UP, LADY!
I SAID... SHUT UP!**

PLEASE,
DON'T--!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

"IN A SINGLE, SEARING MOMENT, MY CHILDHOOD WAS GONE, BLASTED BY A CHEAP THUG'S BULLETS, AND I WAS LEFT ALONE IN A WORLD GROWN COLD..."



"I KNEW I WOULD NEVER AGAIN KNOW PEACE! STANDING OVER THE BODIES OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, I MADE A SILENT VOW..."

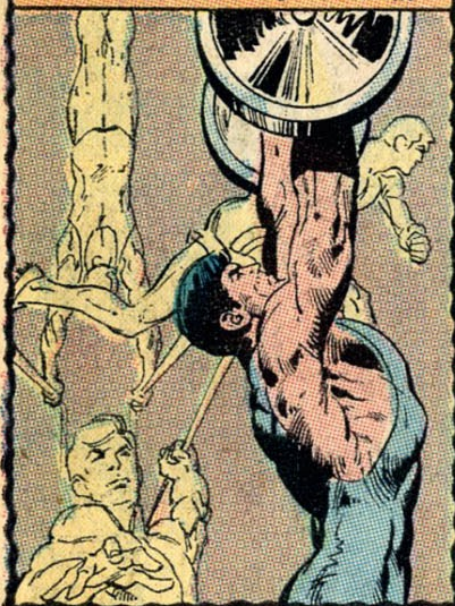
"I WOULD AVENGE THEIR MURDERS--I WOULD DEDICATE MY LIFE TO A RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME..."



"AND SO I DID! HAD I REALIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK I'D SET MYSELF, I MIGHT HAVE WAVERED. THERE WERE BRUTALLY LONG HOURS IN THE LABORATORY..."



"AND EQUALLY LONG, EQUALLY BRUTAL HOURS IN THE GYM... TRAINING, DEVELOPING EVERY CONCEIVABLE SORT OF SKILL..."



"I WAS NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE...A TOTALLY DEVOTED, ALMOST FANATICAL YOUNG MAN..."



"...CONSUMED WITH A NEED, BUT UNABLE TO FOCUS IT! THEN, ONE NIGHT A BAT CHANCED IN MY WINDOW--AND MY FUTURE WAS CLEAR..."

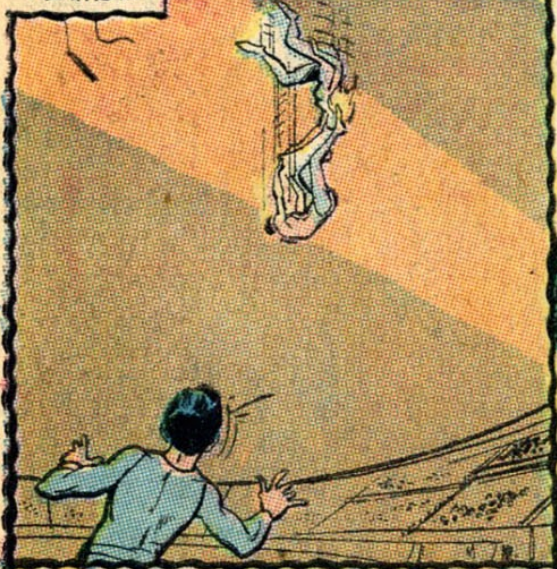
IT'S AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!

"I FELT CRIMINALS TO BE A COWARDLY, SUPERSTITIOUS LOT..."



"AND I REASONED THAT MY DISGUISE WOULD STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS..."

"SOON, I BECAME FEARED AND HATED... EXACTLY AS I'D HOPED! THEN, AT A PERFORMANCE OF THE CIRCUS, I SAW MY OWN TRAGEDY HORRIBLY REENACTED AS A PAIR OF AERIALISTS PLUNGED TO THEIR DEATHS..."

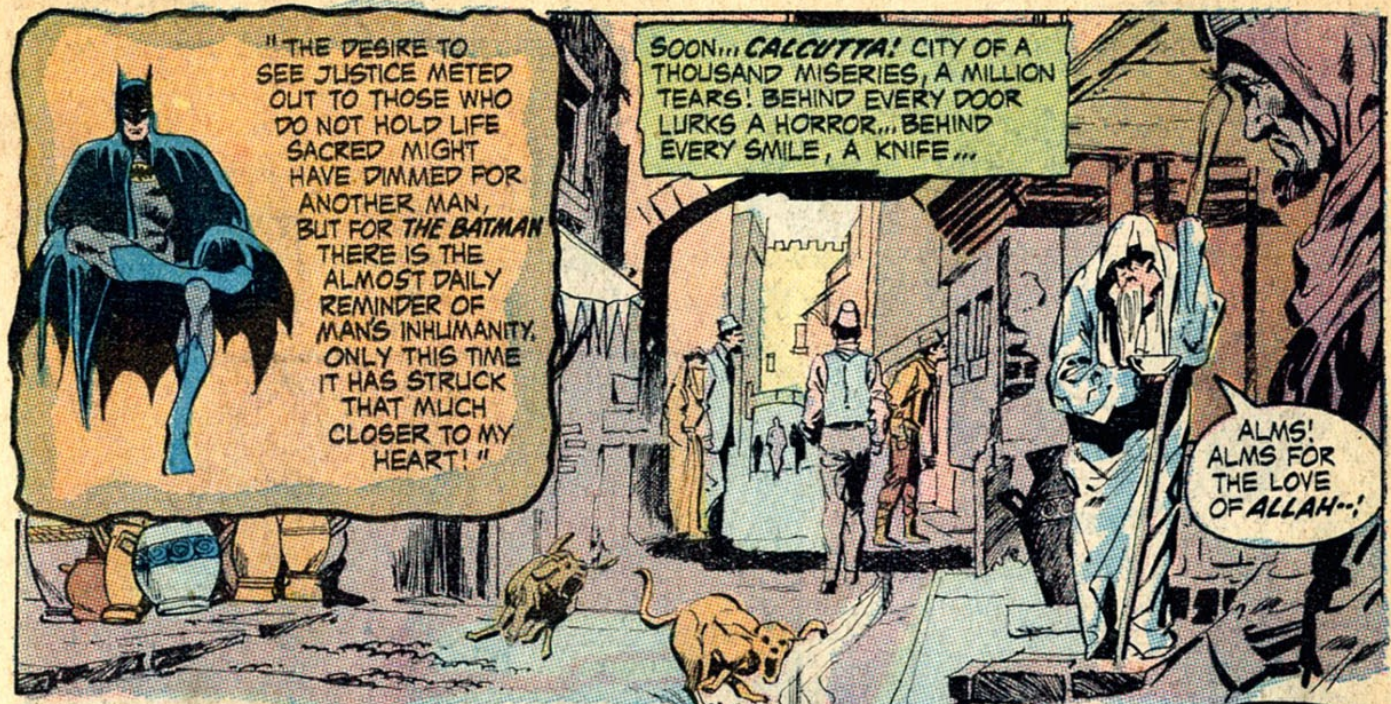


"...LEAVING A SMALL, FRIGHTENED BOY TO MOURN. I CHILLED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT MINE WAS NOT AN ISOLATED AGONY... NOR EVEN UNIQUE!"



"I LOOKED AT THE WEEPING LAD...AND SAW MYSELF! I PUT A HAND ON HIS SHOULDER, AND IN THAT SECOND, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS FORGED BETWEEN US... AND A COMMON PURPOSE!"

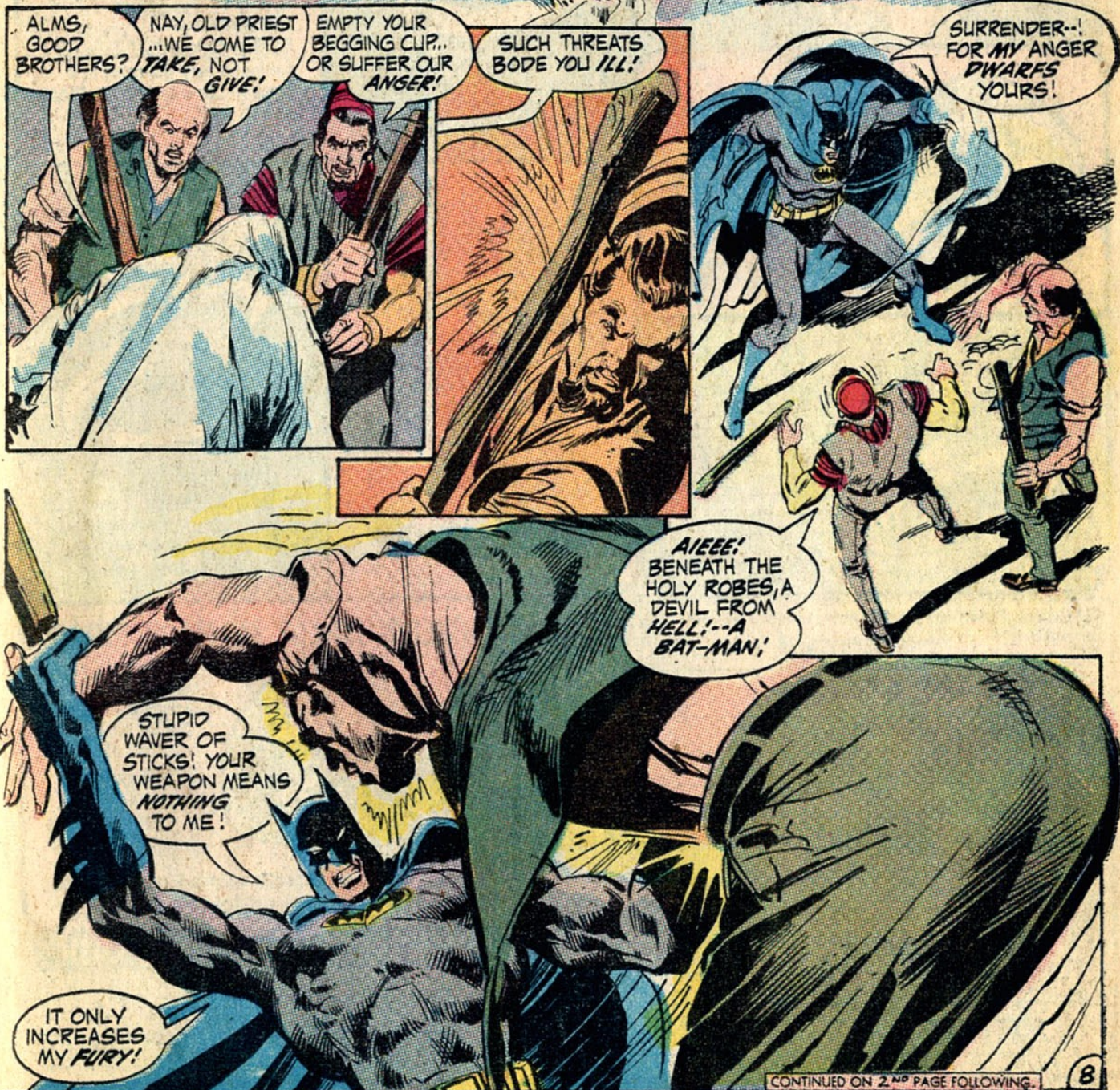




"THE DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE METED OUT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD LIFE SACRED MIGHT HAVE DIMMED FOR ANOTHER MAN, BUT FOR THE BATMAN THERE IS THE ALMOST DAILY REMINDER OF MAN'S INHUMANITY. ONLY THIS TIME IT HAS STRUCK THAT MUCH CLOSER TO MY HEART!"

SOON... CALCUTTA! CITY OF A THOUSAND MISERIES, A MILLION TEARS! BEHIND EVERY DOOR LURKS A HORROR... BEHIND EVERY SMILE, A KNIFE...

ALMS! ALMS FOR THE LOVE OF ALLAH--!



ALMS, GOOD BROTHERS?

NAY, OLD PRIEST...WE COME TO TAKE, NOT GIVE!

EMPTY YOUR BEGGING CUP... OR SUFFER OUR ANGER!

SUCH THREATS BODE YOU ILL!

SURRENDER--! FOR MY ANGER DWARFS YOURS!

AIEEE! BENEATH THE HOLY ROBES, A DEVIL FROM HELL!--A BAT-MAN!

STUPID WAVER OF STICKS! YOUR WEAPON MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

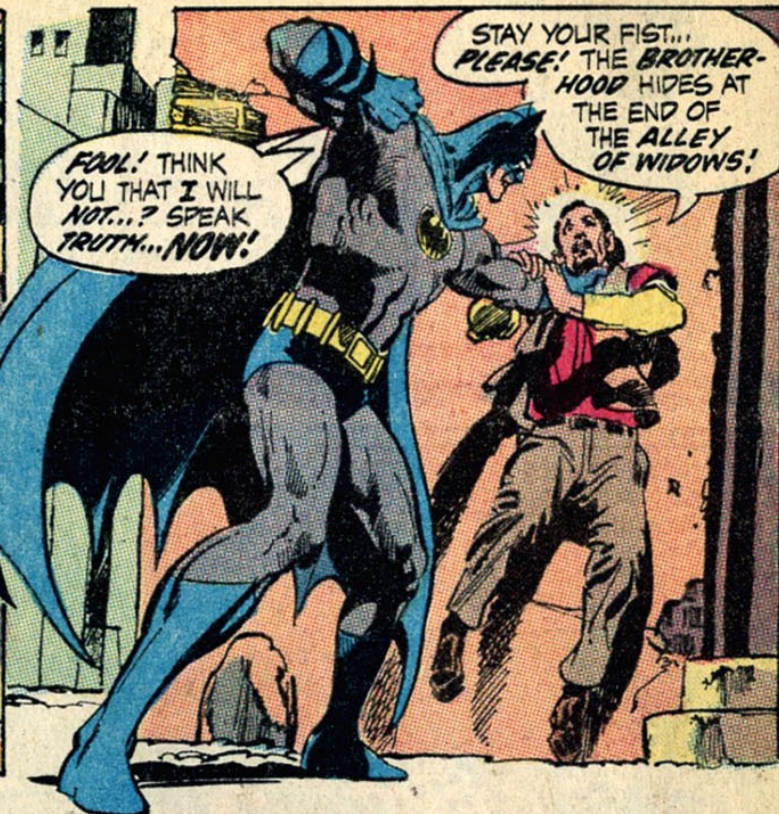
IT ONLY INCREASES MY FURY!

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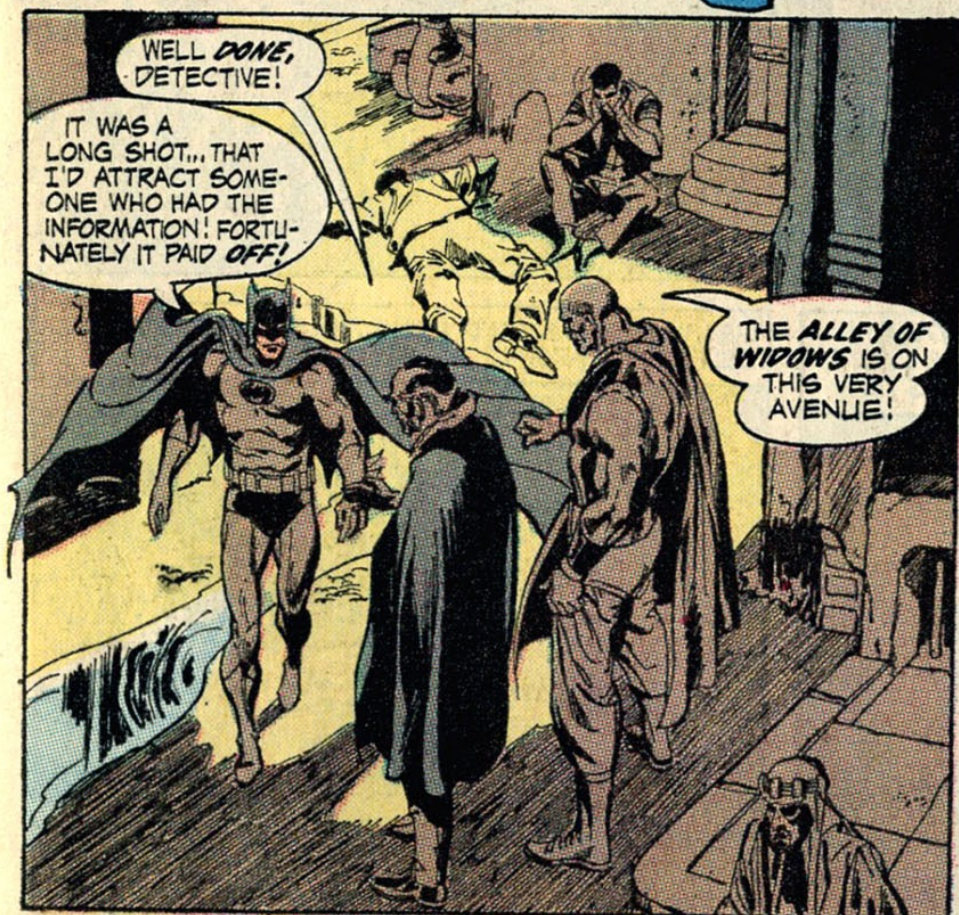
I WOULD HAVE INFORMATION OF YOU! WHERE LURKS THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON?

I DARE NOT ANSWER! THE BROTHERHOOD WOULD HAVE MY LIFE!



FOOL! THINK YOU THAT I WILL NOT...? SPEAK TRUTH...NOW!

STAY YOUR FIST... PLEASE! THE BROTHERHOOD HIDES AT THE END OF THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS!



WELL DONE, DETECTIVE!

IT WAS A LONG SHOT... THAT I'D ATTRACT SOMEONE WHO HAD THE INFORMATION! FORTUNATELY IT PAID OFF!

THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS IS ON THIS VERY AVENUE!



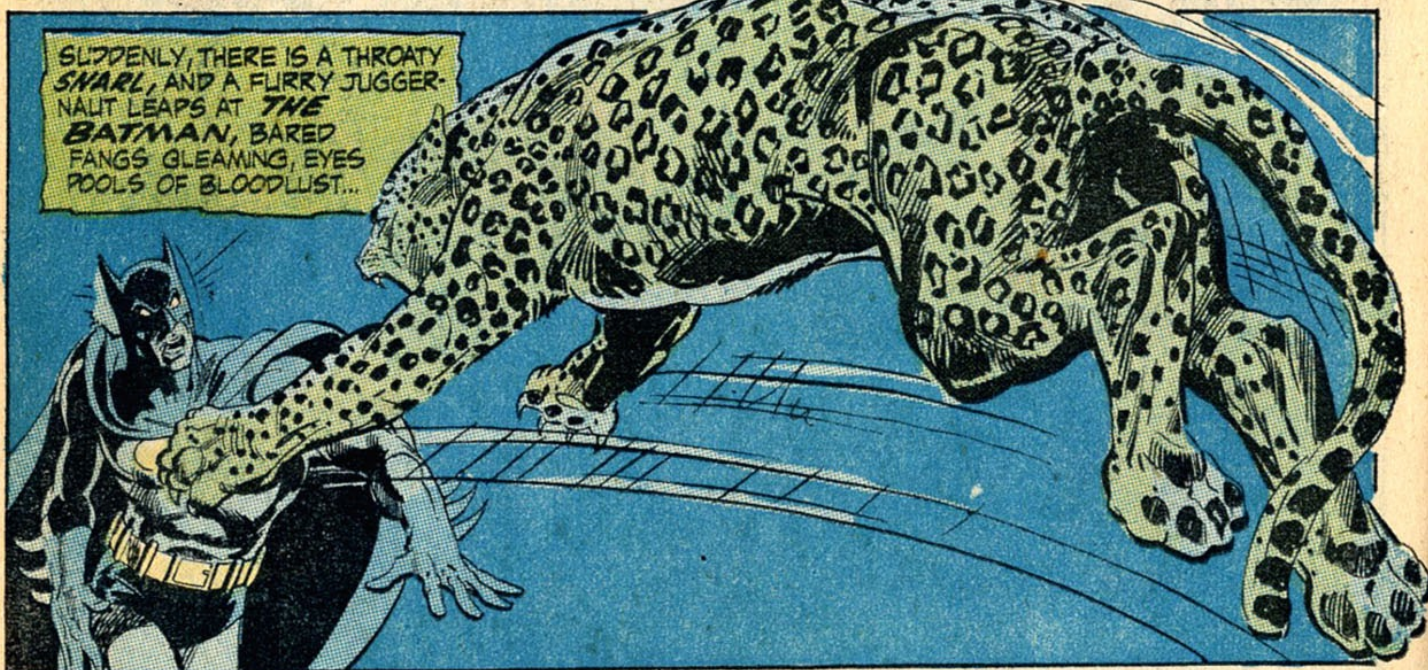
ONCE MORE I WARN YOU, INFIDEL! THE MASTER GOES FIRST!

EASY, BIG FELLA! I'M NOT TRYING TO BE PUSHY!

KINDLY FORGIVE UBU'S DEVOTION!



THAT MUST BE IT! AS NAPOLEON ONCE REMARKED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION...WAITING IS THE MEDICINE OF THE WEAK!



ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING, **THE BATMAN** SMASHES HIS ELBOW DEEP INTO THE MOUTH OF THE ENRAGED LEOPARD... LOCKING ITS JAWS OPEN...



AS HE FALLS, **BATMAN** SIDE STEPS... AVOIDING THE RAKING HIND CLAWS WHICH SEARCH THE AIR, FAILING TO DISEMBOWEL...

THEN, WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING, **THE BATMAN** DRIVES HIMSELF IN AND AROUND THE FELINE FURY...



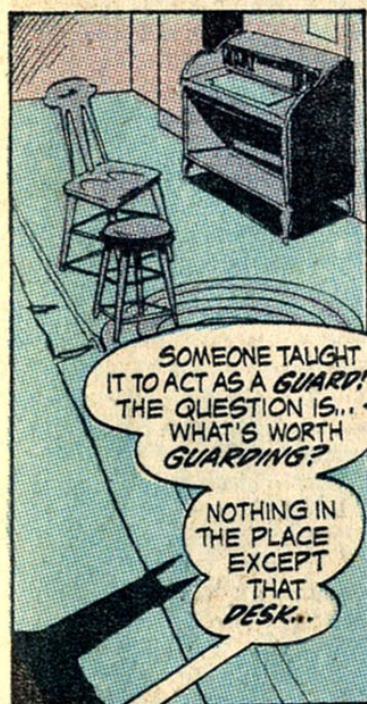
...AND INSIDE THE RANGE OF THE RAKING CLAWS, **THE BATMAN** BEGINS TO FORCE HIS ELBOW FORWARD... UNTIL...



PANTING, THE CAPED WARRIOR STANDS, AS RA'S AL GHUL MURMURS CONGRATULATIONS...

EXCELLENT, DETECTIVE! IS THERE NO LIMIT TO YOUR PROWESS?

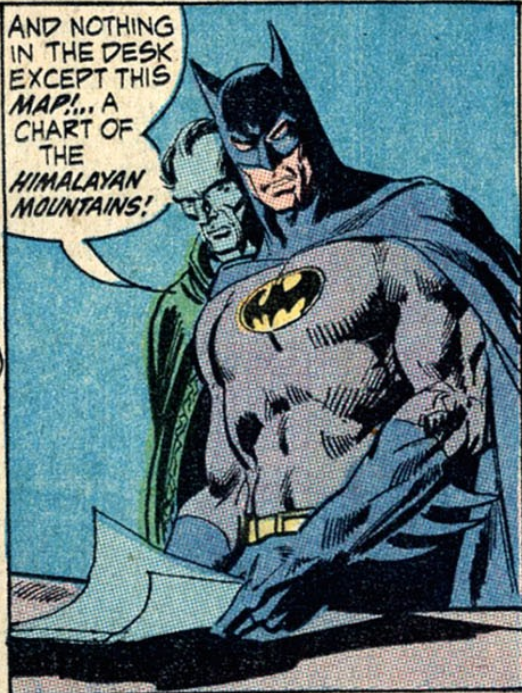
THAT LEOPARD WAS TRAINED!



SOMEONE TAUGHT IT TO ACT AS A GUARD! THE QUESTION IS... WHAT'S WORTH GUARDING?

NOTHING IN THE PLACE EXCEPT THAT DESK...

AND NOTHING IN THE DESK EXCEPT THIS MAP!... A CHART OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS!



UMMM...THERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING!...A FAINT SCRATCH ON THE PAPER...

...AS THOUGH SOMEONE WITH A LONG FINGERNAIL TRACED A ROUTE!



I ASSUME YOU CAN FINANCE A MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION? IF YOU CAN'T-- I...

OF COURSE! WE'LL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!



OH...LEST I FORGET!-- AFTER YOU!

CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

MOUNT NANGA DEVI, ONE OF THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS...
RISING FROM THE WASTELANDS BETWEEN INDIA AND TIBET
25,645 FEET INTO THIN, BRUTALLY COLD AIR! TREACHEROUS,
SAVAGE TERRAIN THAT ALLOWS ANY WHO DARES IT ONLY
ONE MISTAKE...

TO THIS NIGHTMARE OF BLISTERING WIND AND BLINDING
SNOW TREK **THE BATMAN** AND HIS TWO STRANGE
COMPANIONS...

IT HASN'T SNOWED
FOR SEVERAL DAYS! THE
TRAIL IS STILL CLEAR!

YES! THE ABDUCTORS
OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT
YOUR WARD AND MY
DAUGHTER UP THIS
WAY!



YOU TOO
TIRED TO
GO ON?
WE CAN
MAKE
CAMP
HERE!

NO,
DETECTIVE!
ALTHOUGH
I HAVE NOT
ALL YOUR
SKILLS, I
AM YOUR
EQUAL IN
STAMINA!

BUT
GIVE ME
A MOMENT
TO GAZE!



IT IS A BEAUTY TO WHICH
MY SOUL RESPONDS... SO
STARK, SO PURE... AS
UNTAINED AS MY
DESERT HOME!

I AM CURSED
WITH A LOVE FOR
EMPTINESS...
DESOLATION!



TELL ME
YOUR LIFE -
STORY *LATER*...
WHEN THE KIDS
ARE *SAFE*!

THESE FOOT-
AND-HAND-HOLDS
HAVE BEEN
HACKED FROM
THE ICE
RECENTLY!



OUR PATH LEADS *UP*...
FAR UP! WE'LL HAVE TO
MOVE *FAST*... REACH THE
RIDGE-TOP BEFORE
NIGHTFALL!

I'VE HAD SOME *EXPERIENCE*
SCALING CLIFFS! I'LL
LEAD-- UNLESS *UBU*
OBJECTS!

I DEFER
TO YOUR
PROWESS,
DETECTIVE--
GLADLY!



INCH BY DANGEROUS
INCH, THEY ASCEND...
ONLY A THIN ROPE
BETWEEN THEM
AND A QUICK
PLUNGE TO DEATH!
FINGERS AND FACES
GROW NUMB, AND
THE BREATH
RATTLES HARSHLY
IN THEIR THROATS--



STILL, THEY FORCE THEMSELVES FARTHER! **THE BATMAN** FINDS HIS PATH SURELY, SWIFTLY...UNAWARE THAT HE IS FRAMED IN A GUNSIGHT!



WITHOUT WARNING, THE BOOM OF A HEAVY CALIBER RIFLE ECHOES THROUGH THE CREVASSES...

AGGH!

KPOW
POW



AL GHUL'S OUT OF IT! AND I'M A PERFECT **TARGET--!** NO COVER, NO CHANCE TO RUN...

SOON THAT SNIPER WILL FIND THE RANGE--ZERO IN! BULLETS ARE **ALREADY** COMING CLOSER!

SPANG



UBU'S GOTTEN HIMSELF AND **AL GHUL** TO THE LEDGE!

THEY'RE **SAFE** FOR THE TIME BEING!

THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO TAKE MY **INSANE** CHANCE...THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE!

GOT TO GET OUT OF THESE ROPES!

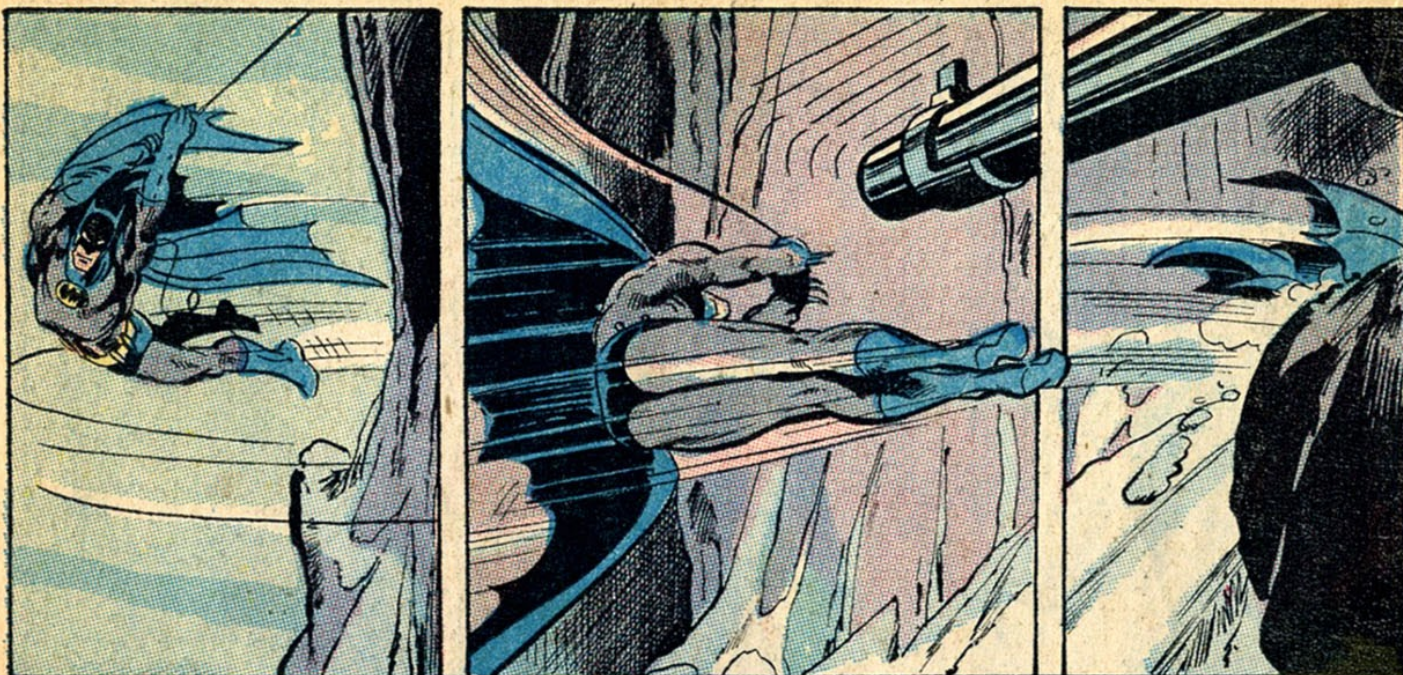


NEXT, I'LL DITCH MY HEAVY PARKA! IT MAY IMPEDE FAST **MOVEMENT...**

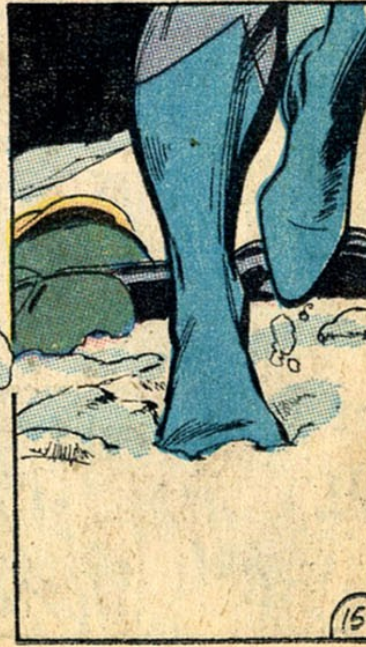


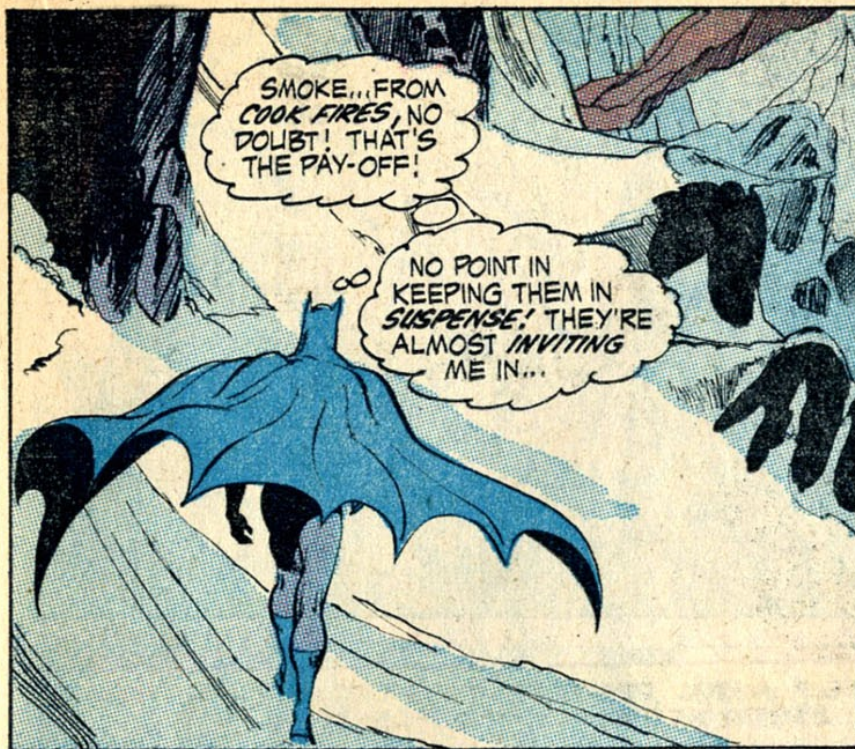
...AND AS IT FALLS, IT MAY DISTRACT THE KILLER FOR THE SINGLE MOMENT I NEED--

--TO BRACE MY FEET... AND **LEAP!**



ACROSS THE CHILL CHASM HE FLINGS HIMSELF--A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE STEEP SLOPE FIFTEEN FEET AWAY...A MURDERER IN FRONT, AND YAWNING DOOM BELOW...!





SMOKE...FROM
COOK FIRES, NO
DOUBT! THAT'S
THE PAY-OFF!

NO POINT IN
KEEPING THEM IN
SUSPENSE! THEY'RE
ALMOST *INVITING*
ME IN...



...AND SINCE
I'VE COME HALF-
WAY AROUND
THE WORLD,
I'LL JUST
ACCEPT THAT
INVITATION!

THERE ARE
PROBABLY
A DOZEN GUNS
TRAINED ON
ME, BUT
NOBODY'S
GOING TO
SHOOT!

THEY'LL
WANT TO
WATCH MY
REACTION!



A *HELICOPTER*...
NATURALLY! IT
FIGURES THERE'D
BE A CHOPPER
IN THE AREA!

AND I CAN
GUESS WHO THE
PASSENGERS
ARE! *

**WUP
WUP
WUP
WUP**

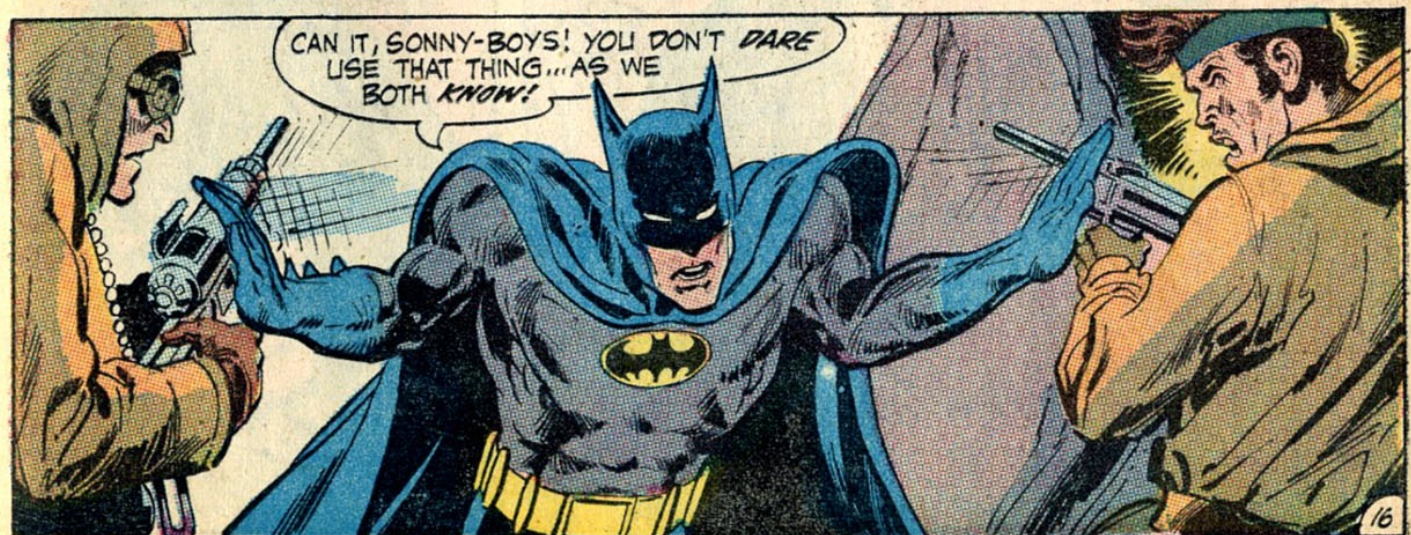
*THE BATMAN ACTS AS THOUGH HE HAS
THE CASE HACKED! HMMM...



AT LAST...I FACE
A PAIR OF *BONA*
FIDE BROTHERS
OF THE DEMON,
PLAYING AT GUARD
DUTY!

DISAPPOINTING! THEY LOOK
LIKE ANY *OTHER* CREEPS WHO
NEED TO PROVE THEIR MANHOOD
WITH NOISY STICKS!

HALT,
INTRUDER!
HALT OR
I'LL...



CAN IT, SONNY-BOYS! YOU DON'T *DARE*
USE THAT THING...AS WE
BOTH *KNOW!*

BOLDLY, THE BATMAN STRIDES INTO A CHAMBER HEWN FROM ROCK, AND...



BATMAN!
GOOD TO SEE
YOU, FRIEND!

SAME HERE,
ROBIN!

STOP!
YOU
CAN'T...



SURE I CAN!
WATCH ME!

HOW'VE THEY
BEEN TREATING
YOU, KID?

NOT BAD!
CHOW'S LOUSY...
NICE ATMOSPHERE,
THOUGH! HAVE
ANY HASSLES
GETTING
HERE?



NONE TO COMPLAIN
OF! BUT DO ME A
FAVOR...NEXT HOODS
THAT SNARE YOU,
ASK THEM TO STAY
IN THE UNITED
STATES! I HATE
LONG TRIPS!



ON YOUR KNEES,
INTRUDER! THE
SUPREME BROTHER
ENTERS!

I'LL GIVE THE
KNEELING A MISS,
IF YOU DON'T
MIND--AND EVEN
IF YOU
DO!

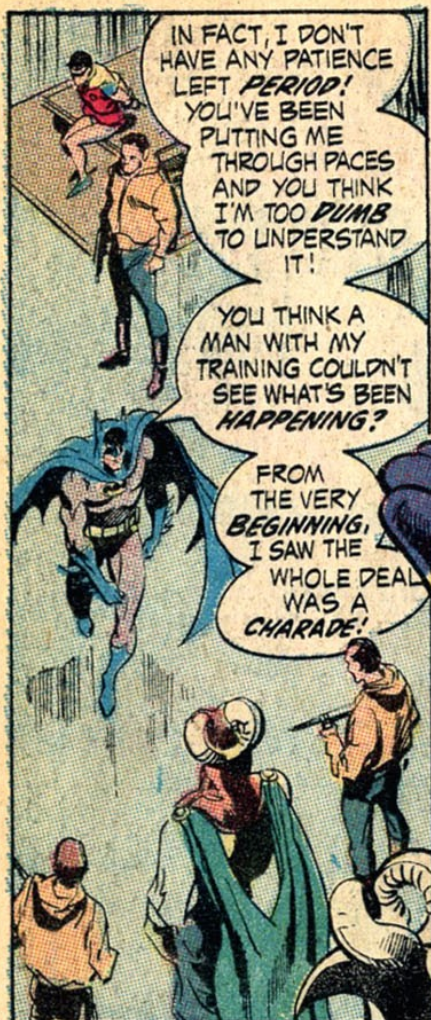
IN THE LAST THREE
DAYS, I'VE MIXED
WITH CUT-THROATS
AND A KILLER-
LEOPARD...



...I'VE BRUISED
MY KNUCKLES ON
VARIOUS CHINS,
I'VE CLIMBED
A MOUNTAIN, AND
I'VE DODGED
BULLETS...

...SO I DON'T
HAVE ANY
PATIENCE LEFT
FOR
PHONY
RITUALS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



IN FACT, I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT **PERIOD!** YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ME THROUGH PAGES AND YOU THINK I'M TOO **DUMB** TO UNDERSTAND IT!

YOU THINK A MAN WITH MY TRAINING COULDN'T SEE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I SAW THE WHOLE DEAL WAS A **CHARADE!**

RÅ'S AL GHÛL AND HIS OX OF A SERVANT SHOWING RIGHT AFTER **ROBIN** DISAPPEARED... THAT WAS A JOKE!

TOO QUICK... TOO BIG A **COINCIDENCE!** **AL GHÛL'S** STORY OF HIS DAUGHTER'S IDENTICAL DISAPPEARANCE WOULDN'T HAVE FOOLED A **MORON!**

THEN IN **CALCUTTA...** **UBU** ALWAYS MADE A BIG ROUTINE OF LETTING HIS BOSS GO AHEAD OF ME...



...EXCEPT WHEN THERE WAS **DANGER!** CONCLUSION... **UBU KNEW** THE LEOPARD WAS WAITING!



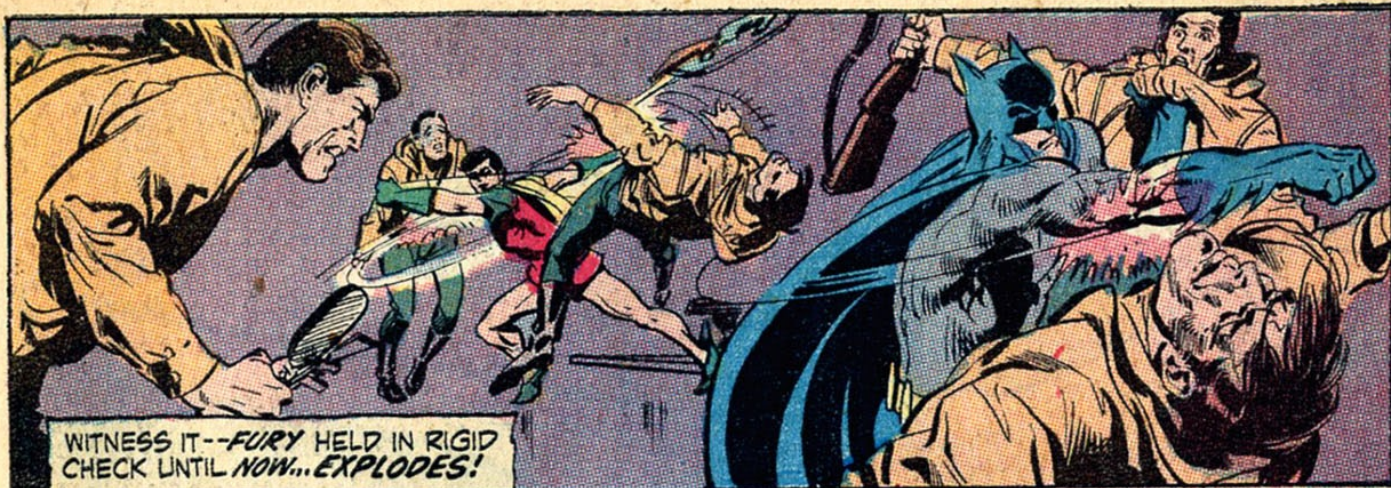
THE **MAP** WAS THE CLINCHER! I TOLD A LITTLE WHITE LIE... BECAUSE THERE WAS **NO** FINGERNAIL SCRATCH ON THE CHART--

...YET **UBU** AND **AL GHÛL** TOOK ME TO **THIS** MOUNTAIN... THIS, OF THE **THIRTEEN HIMALAYAS!**



I'M **TIRED** OF TALKING! YOU **READY,** **ROBIN?**

CHECK, **BATMAN!** SHALL WE **BEGIN?**



WITNESS IT--*FURY* HELD IN RIGID CHECK UNTIL *NOW... EXPLODES!*



THESE ARE NO BRUTAL BEINGS! THERE IS A PART OF THEIR HEARTS THAT *DESPISES* VIOLENCE...



...BUT THEY ARE A PRODUCT OF THEIR ERA, EVEN AS ARE YOU! THE HORRORS OF THREE WARS AND DEEP PERSONAL TRAGEDY HAVE SHAPED THEM!

SO VIOLENCE LIVES WITHIN THEM... AND GIVEN THE OCCASION, IT CAN BECOME AN ICY, REMORSELESS *VENGEANCE!*

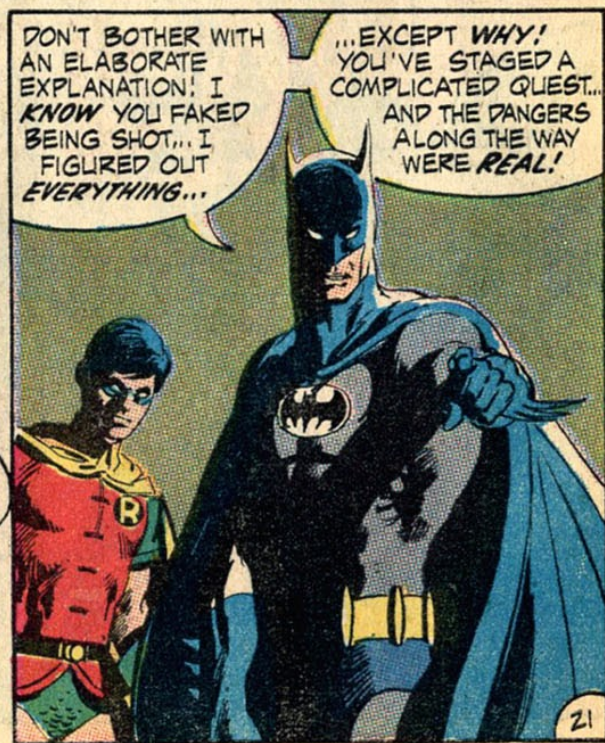
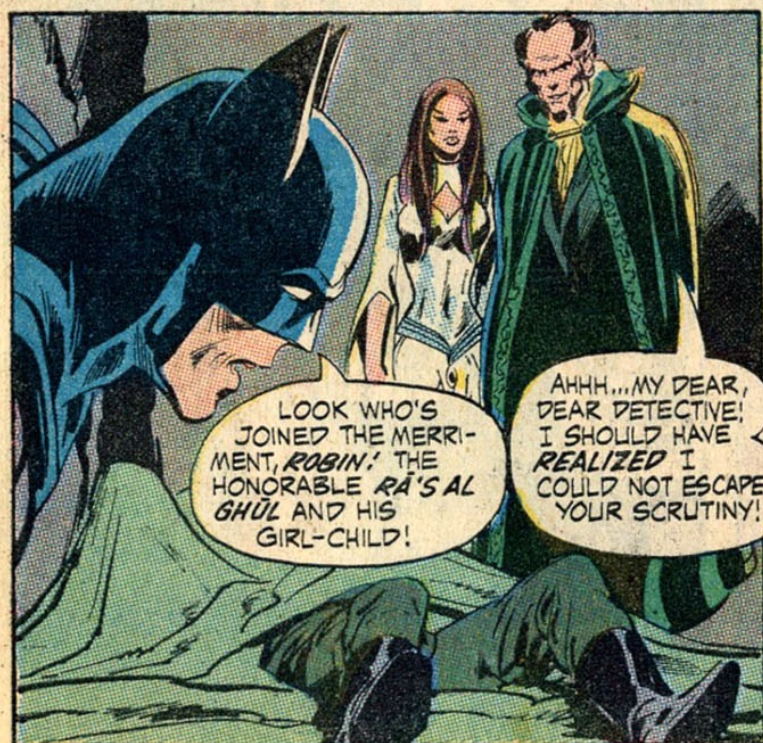
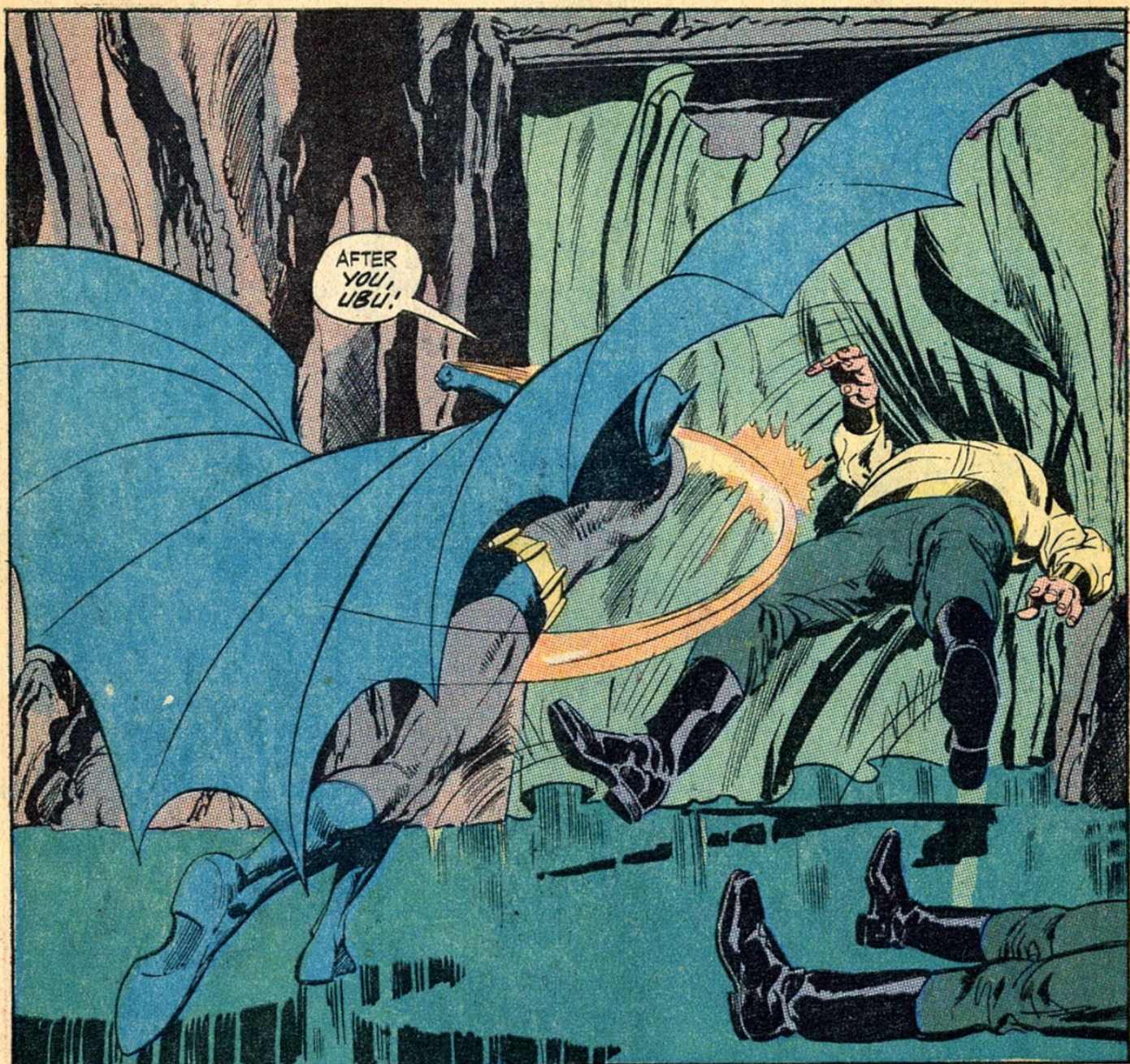


YOUR COHORTS ARE *FINISHED!* YOUR WHOLE BLOODY CREW IS DONE FOR!

NO SENSE IN YOUR HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK ANY LONGER...! IT'S A POOR DISGUISE FOR ONE AS BIG AND UGLY AS YOU, *UBU!*

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.







YOU WOULD HAVE
LET ME BE **KILLED**
IF I HADN'T SAVED
MYSELF! YOU WENT
TO A LOT OF
TROUBLE FOR
A **GAME!**

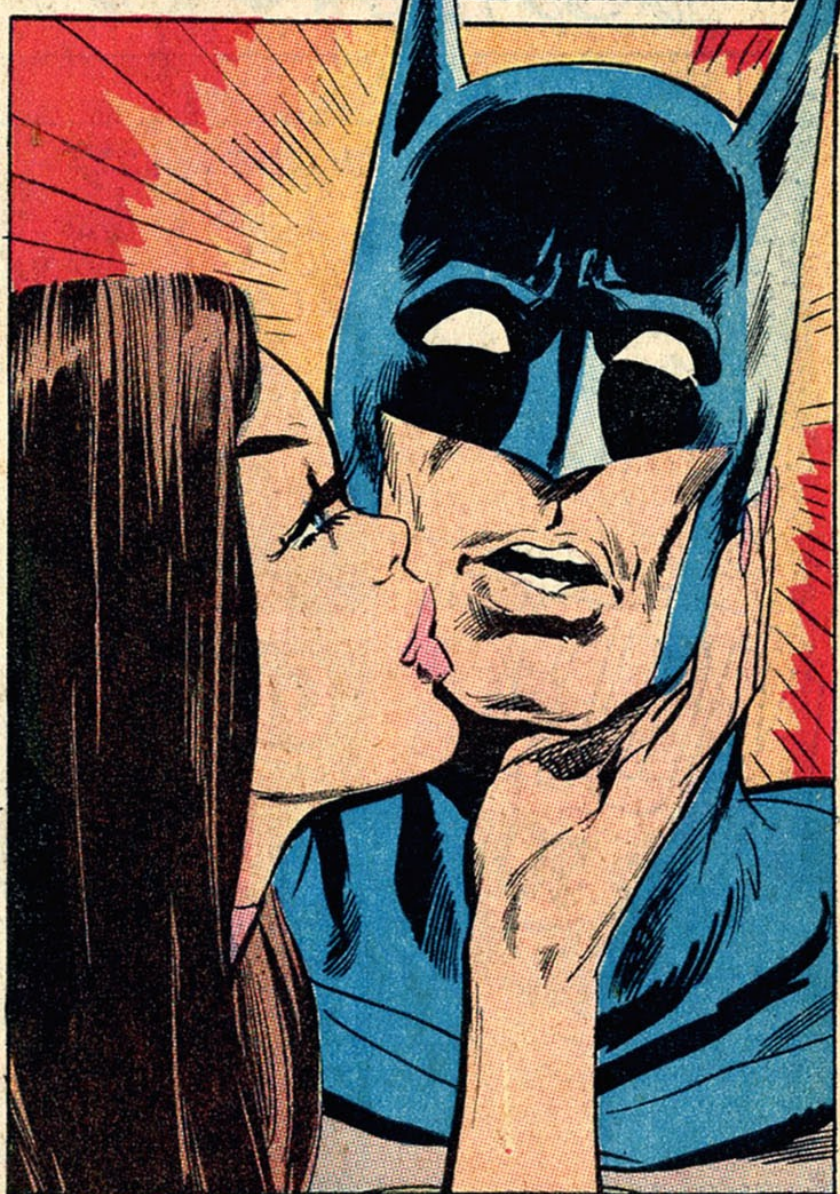
NO GAME,
DETECTIVE! YOUR
ADMIRABLE MIND
HAS REASONED
ALL SAVE THE
OBVIOUS...



...THAT MY
DARLING **TALIA**
LOVES YOU!

MY
ORGANIZATION
IS **VAST...**
I CONSIDER
RETIRING
FROM MY
ACTIVITIES--!

I HAD TO
SATISFY
MYSELF
THAT YOU
ARE A
WORTHY
SUCCESSOR
TO ME!...
A **WORTHY**
SON-IN-
LAW!



WHO **KNOWS** EXACTLY WHAT **RA'S AL GHUL** AND HIS LOVELY
TALIA ARE PLANNING NEXT?-- CERTAINLY NOT **THE BATMAN!**
MORE TO COME SOON!

22

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAY 11TH

DC BATMAN

NO. 242
JUNE
30430

52
BIG pages
DON'T TAKE LESS
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BATMAN

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BIGGER AND BETTER

DC BATMAN

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BIGGER AND BETTER

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EXTRA!
A
ROBIN
SOLO-STORY,
"DEATH-
POINT!"

**COLLECTOR'S
ITEM SPECIAL!**
"THE
PEOPLE
VS
The **BATMAN**"

BRUCE
WAYNE

R.I.P.



BEGINNING THE MOST SENSATIONAL...
THE MOST DANGEROUS... AND CERTAINLY
THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVENTURE
IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OF THE...

BATMAN

BRUCE WAYNE-- REST *in* PEACE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL ~ ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO ~ EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

AT THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, OF THE GOTHAM
CITY POLICE...



HE WAS *ONE* MILLIONAIRE
WHO *USED* HIS WEALTH--
INSTEAD OF LETTING
IT USE *HIM*!

I WONDER
WHY HE DARED
FLY A SMALL
PLANE OVER
THAT JUNGLE--
ALONE?

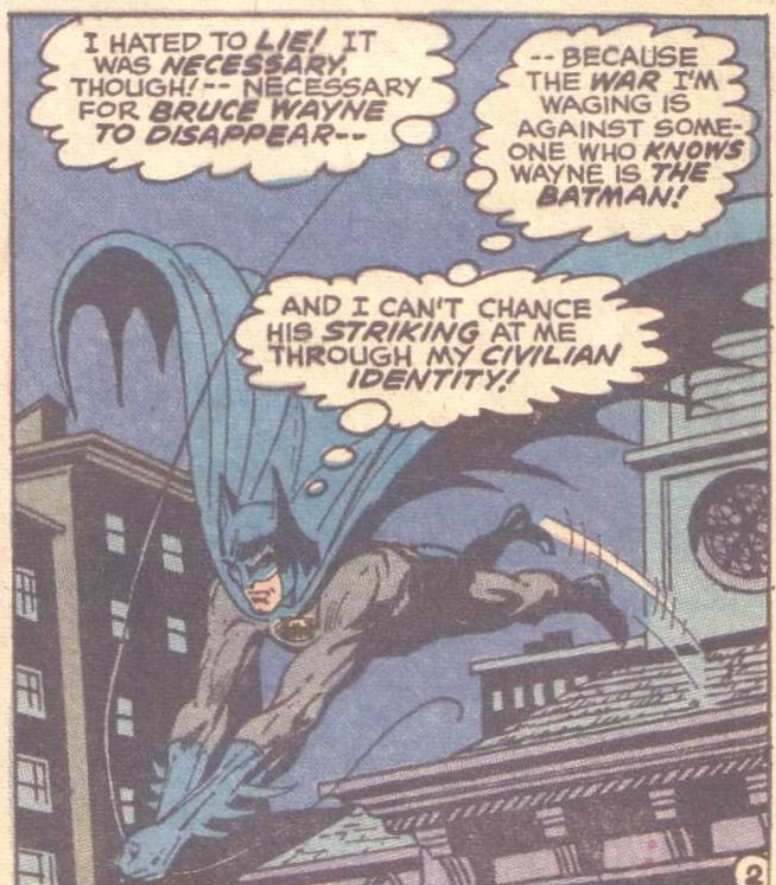


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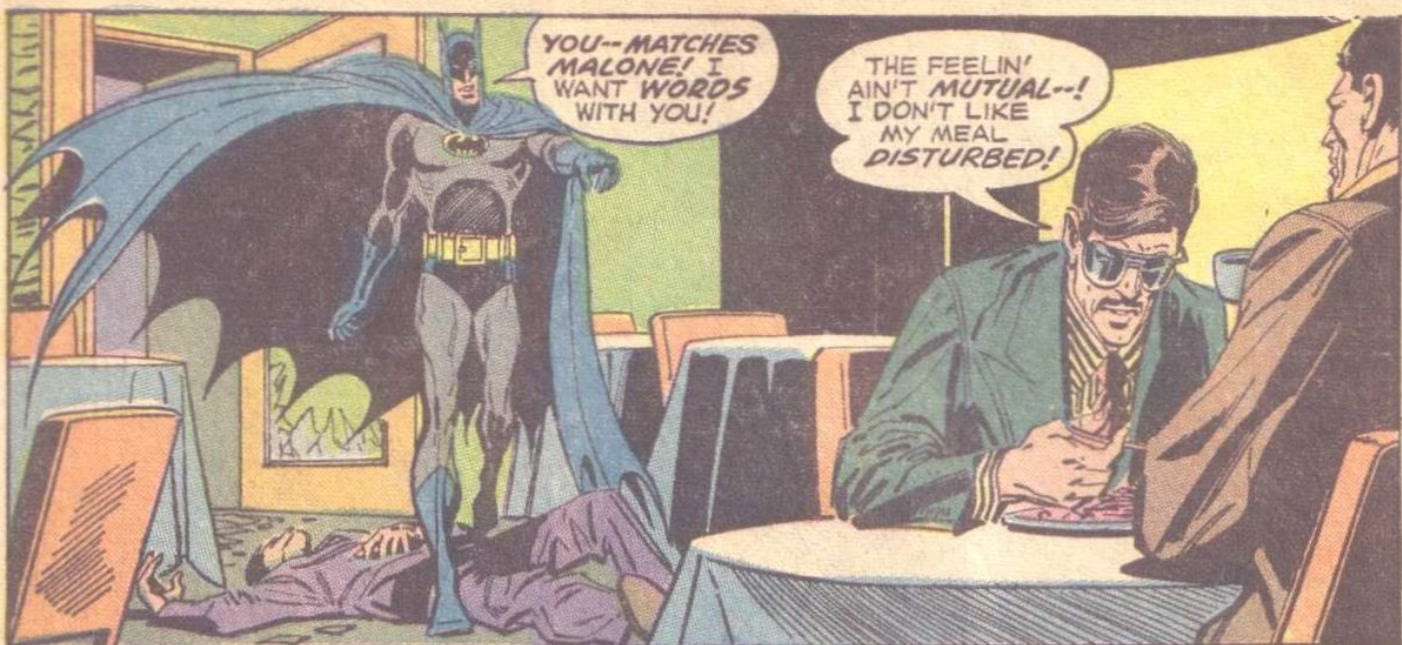
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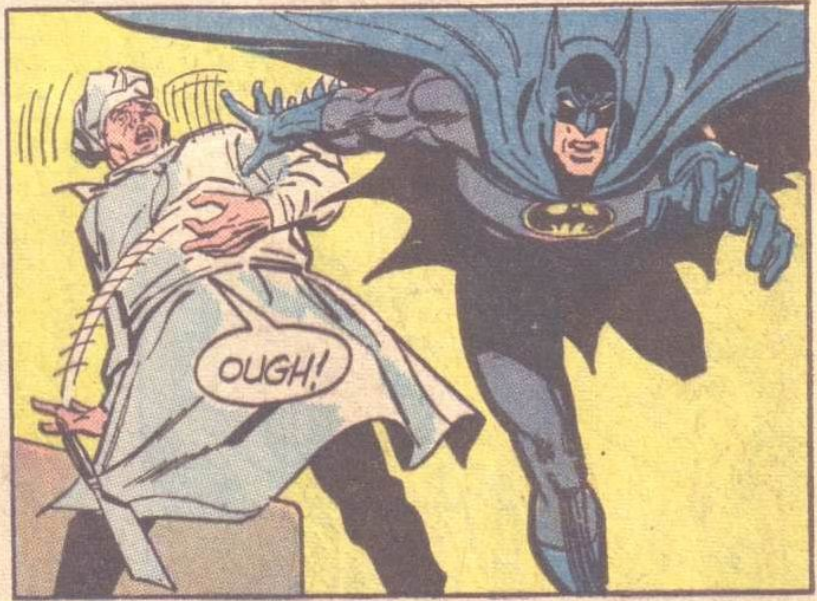
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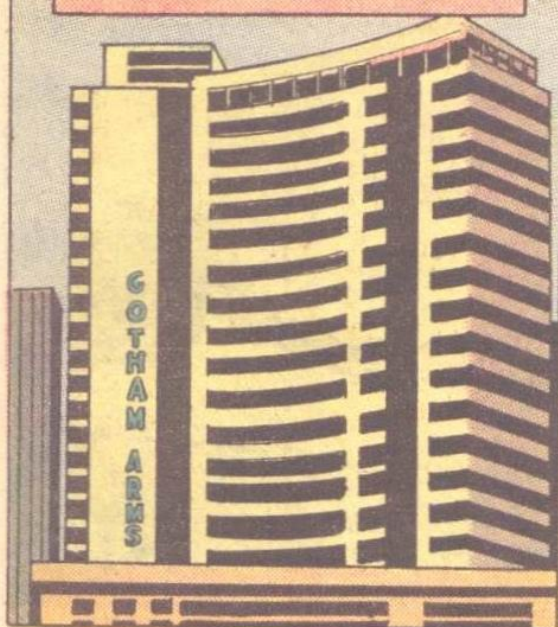








EARLY THE FOLLOWING AFTER-NOON, AT A LARGE, MIDTOWN HOTEL--



--A SINISTER FIGURE SCANS A CROWD--

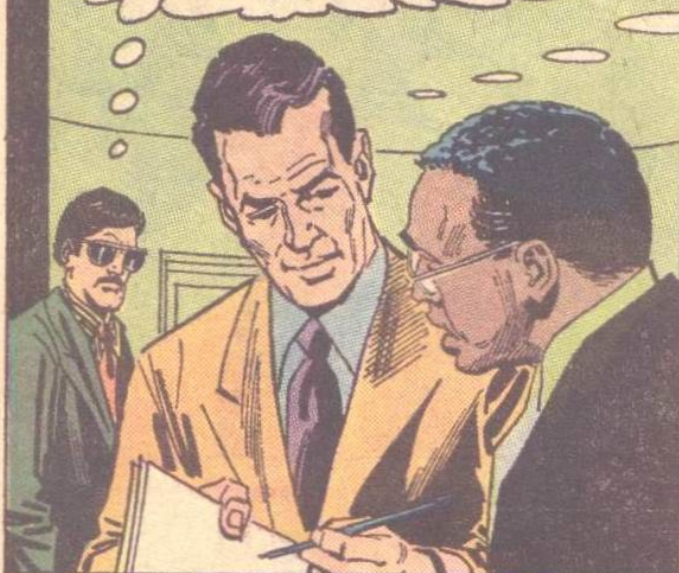
MY *PIGEON* SHOULD BE PASSING THIS WAY! HE'S THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE *BIOPHYSICS CONVENTION*--

-- AND THOSE GUYS ARE THE *CONVENTIONEERS*!

SNAP



THERE HE IS-- *DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE*! I'D BETTER WAIT TILL HE'S *ALONE* BEFORE I PUT MY *PROPOSITION* TO HIM!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE *ELEVATOR*... PROBABLY GOING TO HIS *ROOM*! AND SOMEBODY'S STICKING TO HIM LIKE *GLUE*--

-- MAYBE SOMEBODY WITH THE SAME *IDEA* I HAVE!



I'LL JUST DRIFT IN *WITH* THEM...



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH FLOOR...

PARDON ME, *DOCTOR BLAINE*! MAY I *SPEAK* WITH YOU?

WHAT IS IT?



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.





RISE AN' SHINE, CHUM!
DRINK THE WATER--
AN' **TALK** TO ME!

W-WHERE
AM I?--
WHO ARE
YOU?



YOU'RE IN
A PRIVATE
SUITE--

--AN' YOU'RE
JAWIN' WITH
MATCHES
MALONE--
EX-HONCHO
OF THE
WATERFRONT
MOB!

SOME BOZO TRIED
TO PUT THE **SNATCH**
ON YOU! I COOLED
'IM... 'COUNT OF MY
LEADER WANTS
CONVERSATION
WITH YOU!



YOUR...
LEADER?

GREETINGS,
DOCTOR HARRIS
BLAINE!

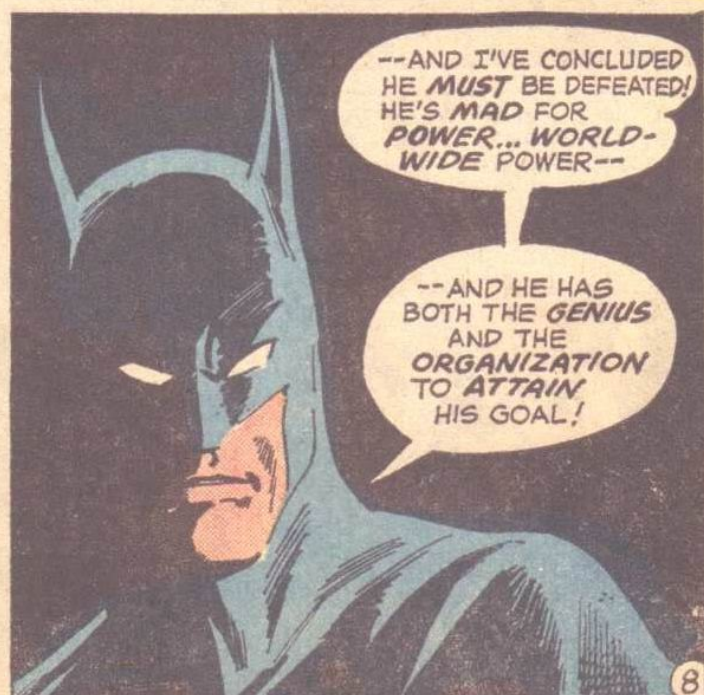
YEAH... NAME OF
THE **BATMAN!**

YOU'RE
DOUBTLESS
WONDERING THE
REASON I HAD YOU
BROUGHT TO ME!



THIS IS THAT REASON...
A MASTER OF EVIL
CALLED **RA'S AL GHUL!**
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
I'VE CLASHED WITH HIM
AND HIS DAUGHTER,
TALIA...

...EACH
TIME WE
CAME TO A
STALEMATE!
I ACKNOWLEDGE
I CANNOT
DEFEAT HIM
BY **MYSELF!**



--AND I'VE CONCLUDED
HE **MUST** BE DEFEATED!
HE'S MAD FOR
POWER... WORLD-
WIDE POWER--

--AND HE HAS
BOTH THE **GENIUS**
AND THE
ORGANIZATION
TO **ATTAIN**
HIS GOAL!



RÄS WILL STOP AT NOTHING SHORT OF A **CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP!** I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY HE ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP **YOU!**

COULD BE... I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE **USEFUL** TO A HITLER-TYPE!



DOCTOR, WILL YOU JOIN US-- AGAINST HIM?

I CAN'T **PROMISE**, OFF-HAND! I'M A **SCIENTIST**-- NOT A **MANHUNTER!**--AND YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY **CONVINCED ME...**

GOT ANY MORE **ARGUMENTS?**



ONLY **THIS ONE!**-- IF YOU **REFUSE**, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A MINUTE'S **PEACE AGAIN!**

YOU'LL BE **HOUNDED--** BY EITHER **RÄS...** OR **ME!--** I **SWEAR IT!**

A **TRULY IMPRESSIVE THREAT, BATMAN--**



-- WHICH YOU WILL NOT **LIVE TO IMPLEMENT!**

YOU ARE **SURPRISED** TO SEE ME? BE **ADVISED...** MORE THAN A **FIST IN THE FACE** IS REQUIRED TO **VANQUISH LO LING!**

I WAS NOT **SUFFICIENTLY STUNNED** TO PREVENT MY **FOLLOWING YOU!**



IT IS INDEED A **STRANGE COINCIDENCE--** YOU DISCUSSING **RÄS AL GHÜL!** FOR I **SERVE HIM!**

IN THE **STEPPE** OF MY **HOMELAND**, HE SAVED MY **LIFE!** ACCORDING TO THE **rites** OF MY **MONGOL TRIBE** I AM THEREFORE HIS **SLAVE!**



SWELL! YOU THINK WE'RE **INTERESTED** IN YOUR **LIFE STORY**, OR SOMETHIN'?

IT IS MERELY **COURTEOUS** TO EXPLAIN **WHY** I FIND IT **NECESSARY** TO ACT AS I AM **ABOUT TO!**

MASTER RĀS AL GHŪL
CHARGED ME TO CAPTURE
DOCTOR BLAINE--
UNLESS I HAPPENED
TO MEET THE
BATMAN!

IN SUCH AN
INSTANCE, MY GREATEST
PRIORITY IS TO
ELIMINATE THE
BATMAN-- A COMMAND
THE MASTER'S
DAUGHTER DISAGREES
WITH, BY THE WAY!

HOWEVER, I AM
NOT TALIA'S
CREATURE-- BUT
HER FATHER'S!
THUS--



-- RĀS AL GHŪL'S
FOE--



-- DIES!



AS THOUGH JERKED UPRIGHT BY A GIANT
HAND, MALONE STANDS, AND SHOUTS--

YA DIRTY...
MURDERIN' SWINE!
I'LL PUT YA ON
A SLAB
PERSONALLY!



AT THAT SAME INSTANT, THE SLIDE PROJECTOR'S BEAM HITS DOCTOR BLAINE'S EYES--

CAN'T SEE!

AND WHEN HIS VISION CLEARS...

GONE?!-- THE BATMAN'S CORPSE AND THE ORIENTAL-- VANISHED!

YEAH... I WAS BLINDED, SAME AS YOU!

YOU BEAT FEET TO THE LOBBY, DOC... MAYBE YOU CAN SPOT LING!

I... I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED!

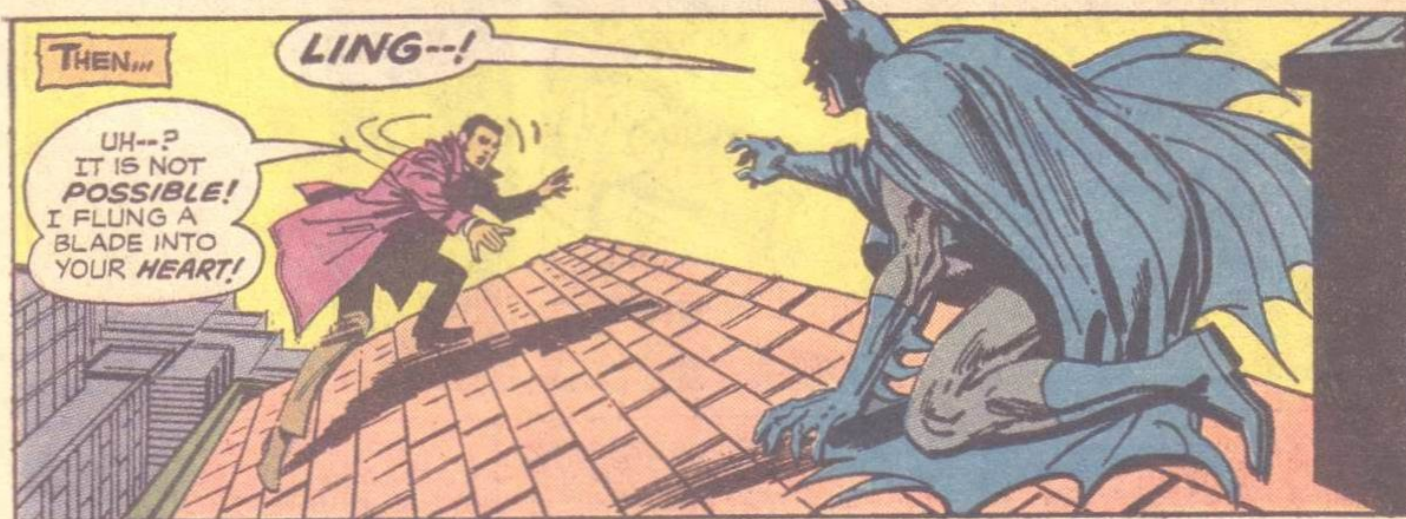
LOOK... YOU'RE THE BIG HUMANITARIAN! YOU WANT TO HELP MANKIND? WELL, YOU CAN START BY CHASIN' A KILLER!

NOW... MOVE!

ALL RIGHT!

TIME TO RETIRE MATCHES MALONE-- THOUGH NOT AS PERMANENTLY AS THE REAL MALONE WAS RETIRED BY HIS OWN BULLET--

-- THE SLUG THAT RICOCHETED IN THE CAFE AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE HEART!



WITH A SMALL, DULL
CREAK, THE GUTTER
PULLS LOOSE FROM
ITS MOORINGS...

I GO TO MY
ANCESTORS... THAT,
OR THE GODS
INTERVENE!



ABRUPTLY, THE BATMAN
TURNS AND STRIDES
QUICKLY AWAY--!



A MOMENT... TWO... AND THE
METAL TEARS COMPLETELY
FREE... LEAVING THE MONGOL
FLAILING HELPLESSLY IN
EMPTY AIR... SIX HUNDRED
FEET FROM THE PAVEMENT
BELOW!



HE PLUMMETS-- INTO
A PAIR OF CABLE-STRONG
ARMS REACHING FROM
A WINDOW DIRECTLY
BENEATH!



SORRY FOR THE SCARE,
LING! I SAW I COULDN'T
REACH YOU FROM THE
ROOF... THOUGHT I
MIGHT MANAGE IT
FROM HERE!



YOUR RESCUE
EMBARRASSES
ME, GHOST-BAT!
FOR IT OBLIGATES
ME TO YOU-- EVEN
AS I AM OBLIGATED
TO RĀS AL GHŪL!

I'M CALLING THAT OBLIGATION,
LO LING! I'M CHARGING
YOU WITH THE TASK OF
HELPING SMASH RĀS
AND HIS DEMONS!

YOU, DOCTOR BLAINE
AND MATCHES MALONE
ARE TO MEET ME A
WEEK HENCE-- I'LL
SAY WHERE
LATER!



ALONE, THE BATMAN
ENTERS THE SUITE, HIS
MIND CHURNING...

I'VE BEGUN IT-- THE WAR
WITH RÄS AL GHÜL!--
THE WAR ONLY ONE
OF US CAN SURVIVE!

ON HIS SIDE, DOZENS
OF TRAINED SOLDIERS--
ASSASSINS--



--AND ON NINE, A
RELUCTANT SCIENTIST,
A SUPERSTITIOUS
BANDIT, AND A DEAD
GANGSTER!

THOSE... AND THIS
DUMMY I RIGGED TO
DROP INTO A TRAP-
DOOR-- A **STAND-IN**
BATMAN!



--A MANNEQUIN WITH A
RADIO RECEIVER IN ITS HEAD
TUNED TO RECEIVE SUB-
VOCALIZATIONS I TRANSMIT
FROM A TINY THROAT-MIKE!

A FEW GIMMICKS
AND THREE
MEN AGAINST
THE ARMY...
THE **GENIUS**...
OF RÄS!

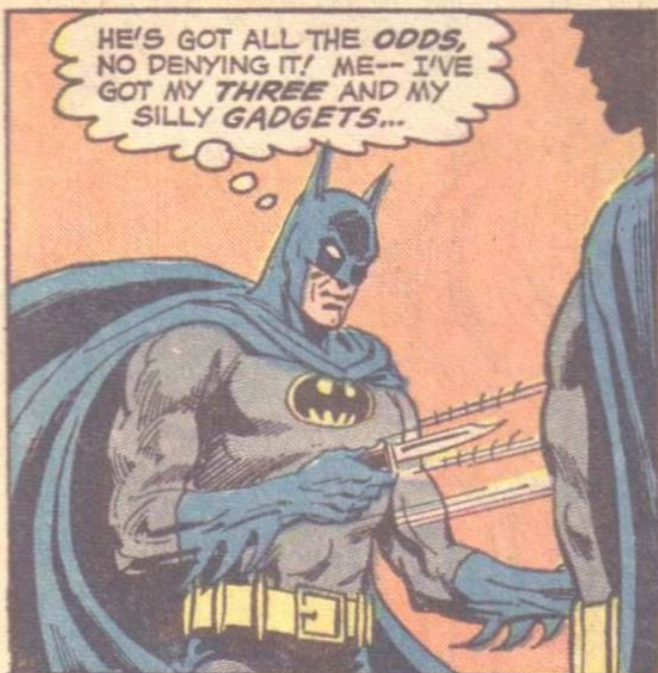


IF I WERE A GAMBLER,
I'D BET ON THE
ENEMY!

KLIK!



HE'S GOT ALL THE **ODDS**,
NO DENYING IT! ME-- I'VE
GOT MY **THREE** AND MY
SILLY **GADGETS**...



...AND ONE THING MORE!
DETERMINATION... A
CONVICTION THAT I'M
FIGHTING FOR **RIGHT!**



YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE **BEGINNING**... SOON YOU ARE DESTINED TO WITNESS--The End



ALL NEW STORIES

NOW ONLY 20¢

BATMAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 243
AUG.
30430



YOU ARE WATCHING A FIGHT TO THE DEATH... THAT THE BATMAN DOESN'T DARE WIN!

S-1262

TWO MEN-- EACH HIGHLY TRAINED
IN THE FIGHTING ARTS, EACH
SUPERBLY CONDITIONED-- FACE
EACH OTHER IN WHAT PROMISES
TO BE A DUEL TO THE **DEATH!**

AND THIS IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING OF AN ADVENTURE
TO **SHOCK...TO STUN--** TO
PRESENT **INSURMOUNTABLE**
CHALLENGES TO THE DREAD...

BATMAN

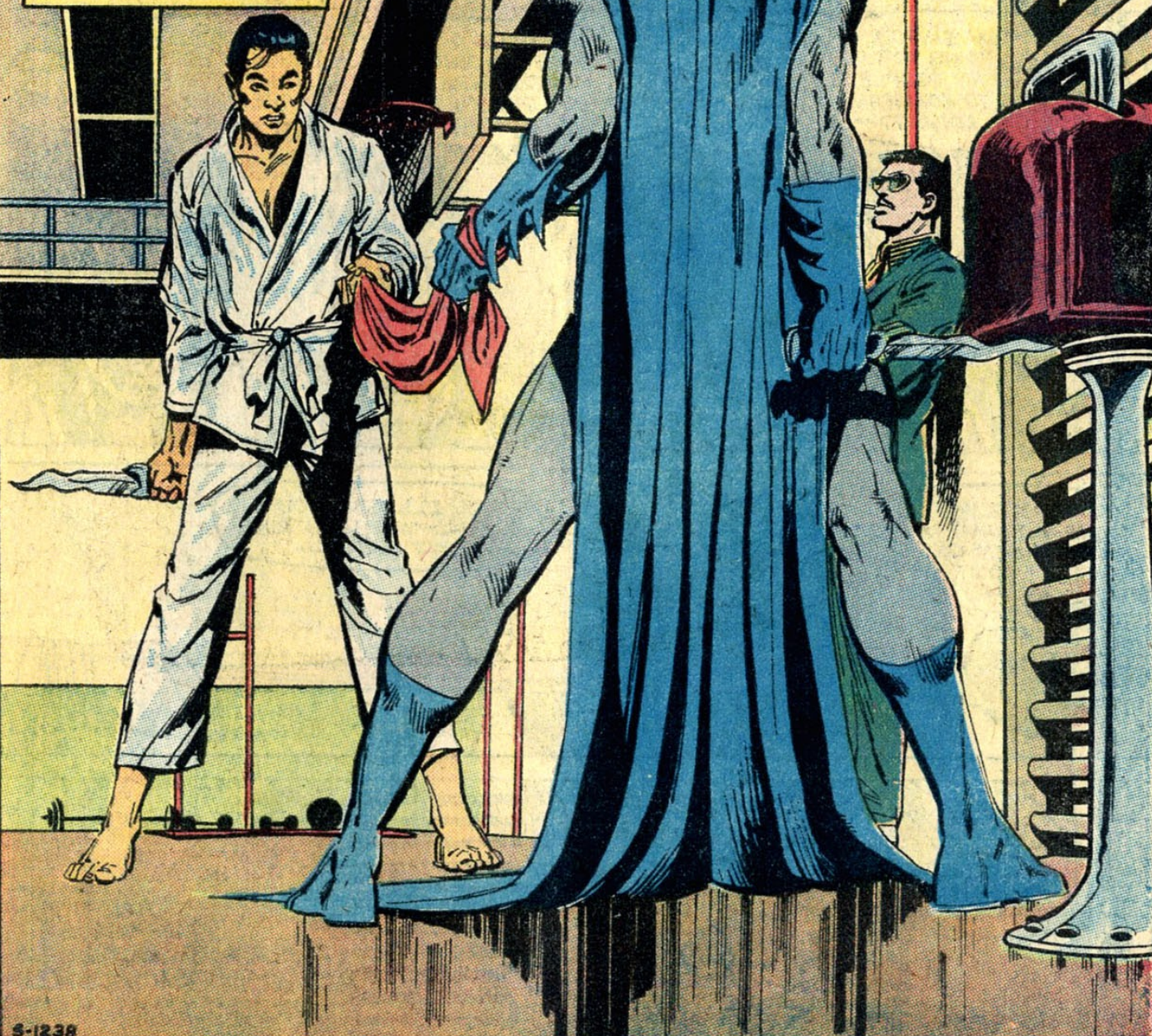
STORY: DENNY O'NEIL
PENCILS: NEAL ADAMS
INKS: DICK GIORDANO
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

"THE LAZARUS PIT!"

THERE IS ONLY **ONE**
WAY TO SETTLE OUR
DIFFERENCES, FRIEND
BATMAN--

--TO SETTLE THEM
WITH **HONOR--**
MORTAL
COMBAT!

IF YOU
INSIST--
LING--

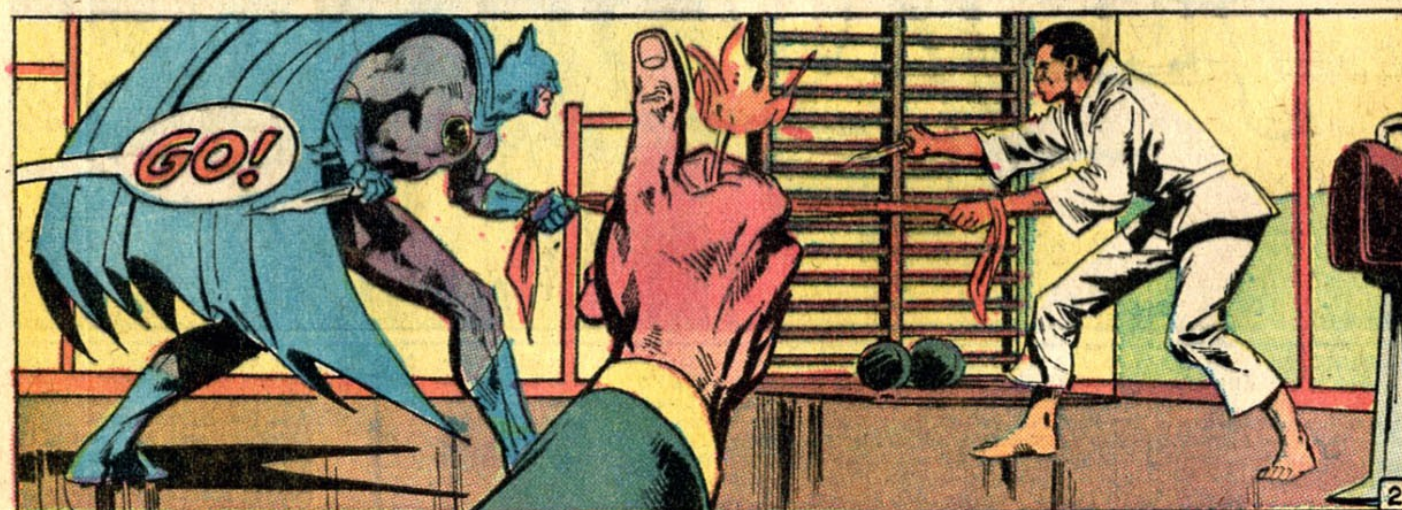
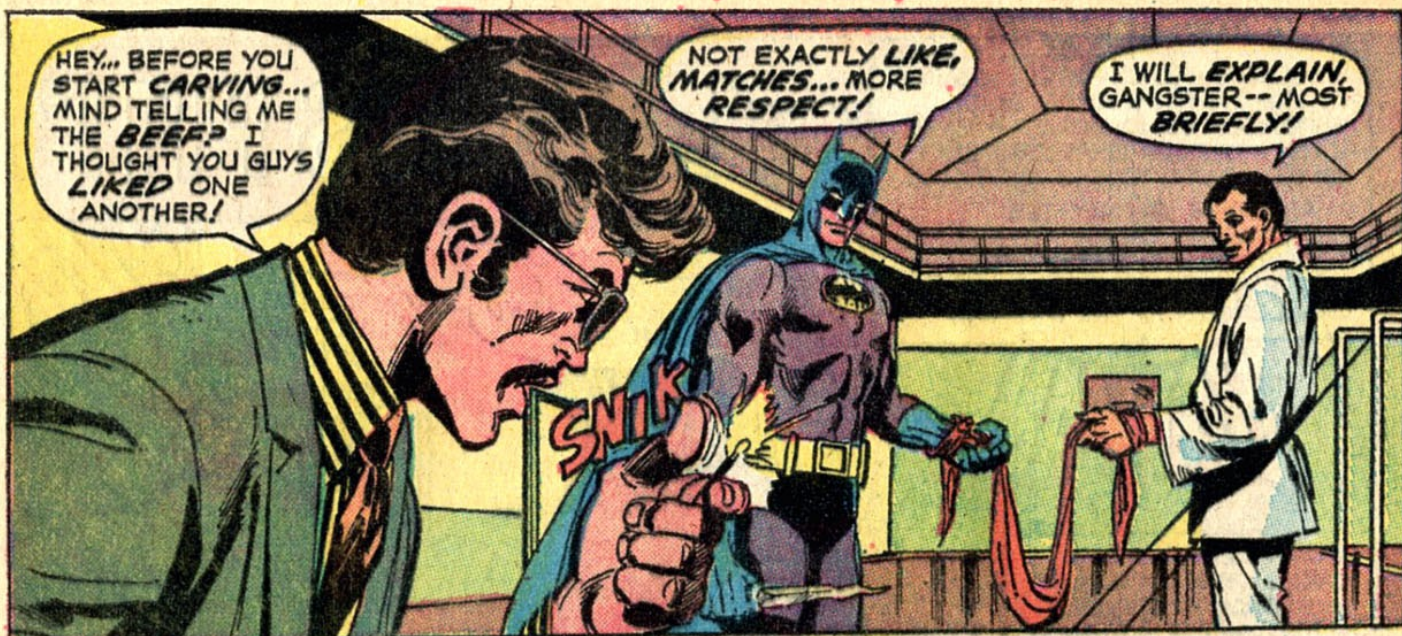


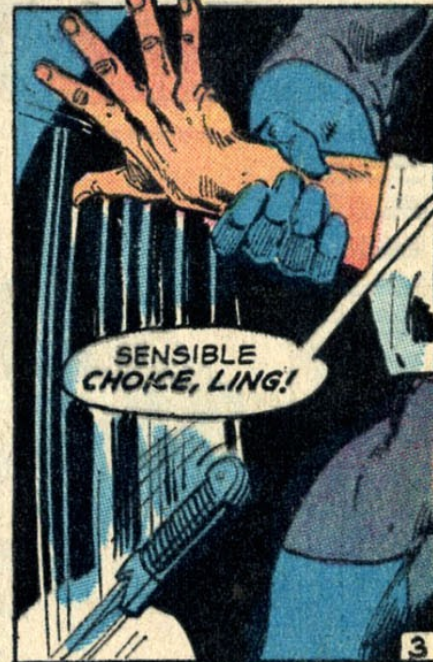
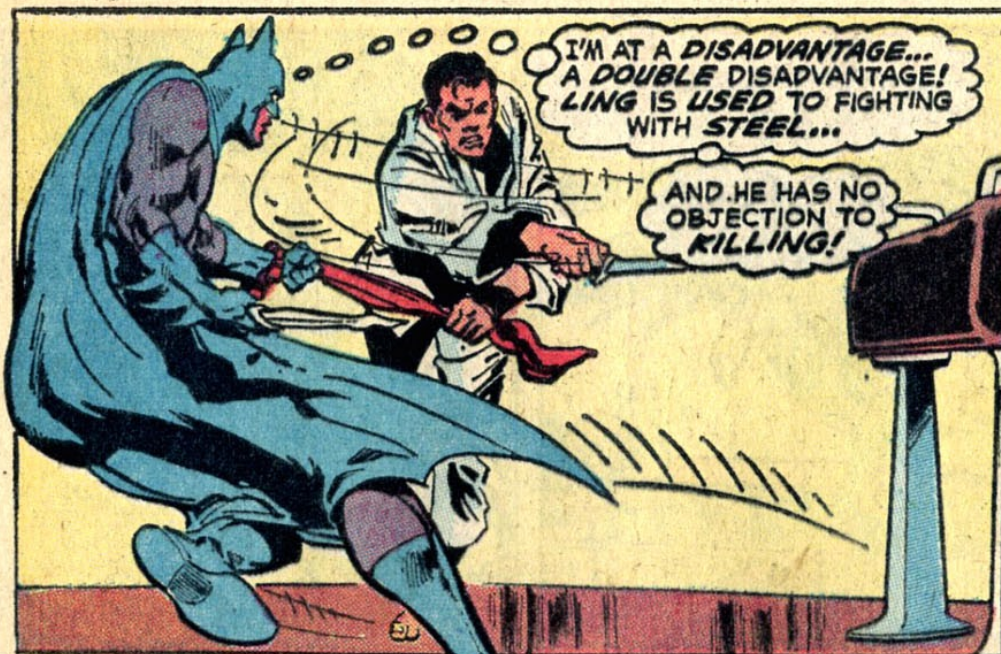
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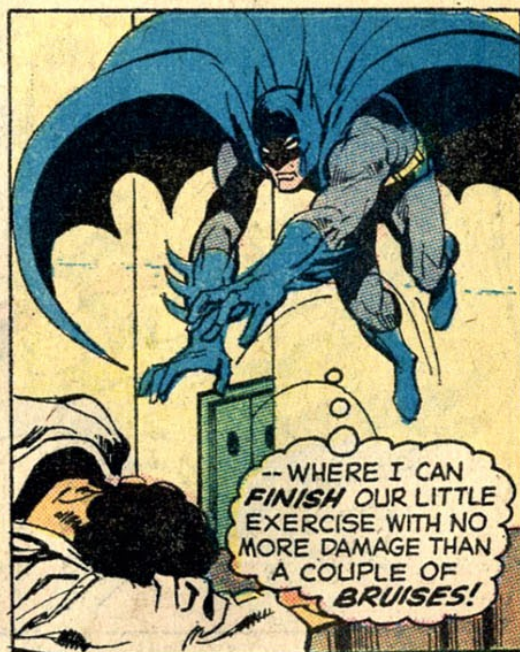
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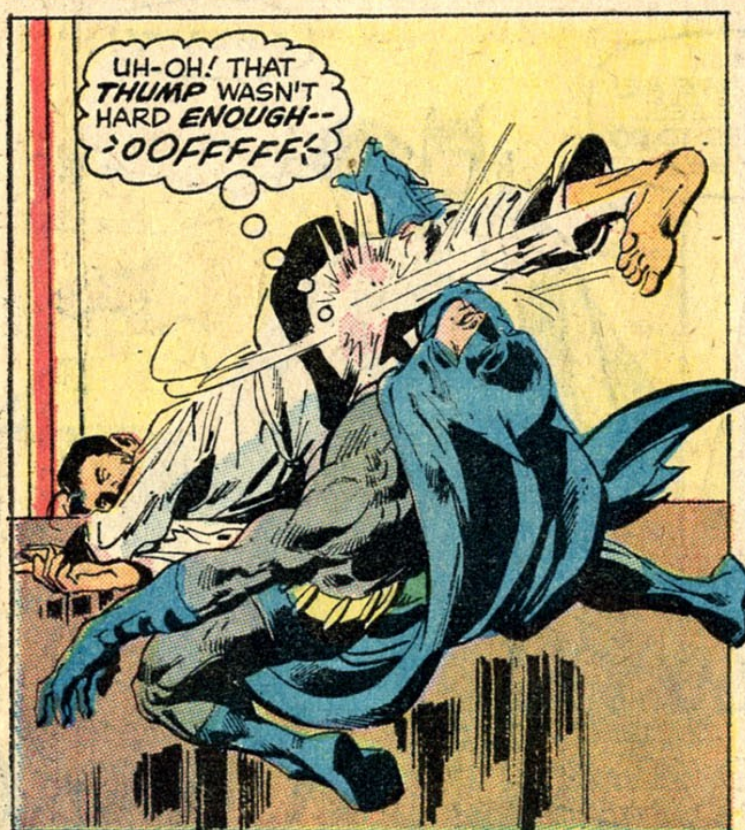




A GOOD HARD
THUMP AGAINST THE
WALL WILL MAKE HIM
GROGGY--



-- WHERE I CAN
FINISH OUR LITTLE
EXERCISE WITH NO
MORE DAMAGE THAN
A COUPLE OF
BRUISES!



UH-OH! THAT
THUMP WASN'T
HARD ENOUGH--
OOFFFFF!



...NOW **I'M**
THE ONE WHO'S
GROGGY!

LING IS RUNNING
TRUE TO FORM...
TRYING FOR HIS
WEAPON!

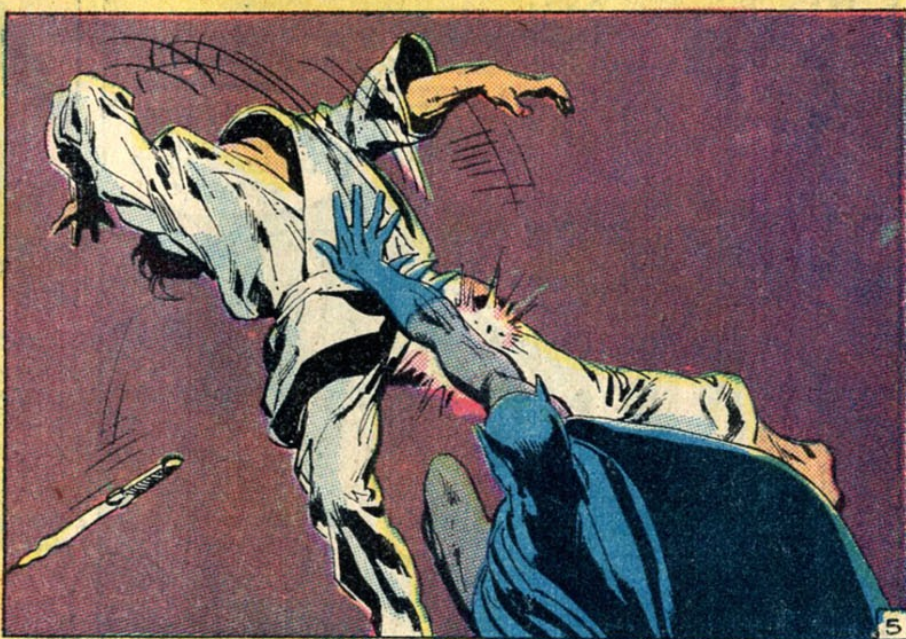


HE'S GOT IT!
--NOTHING I CAN DO...
EXCEPT **WAIT!**

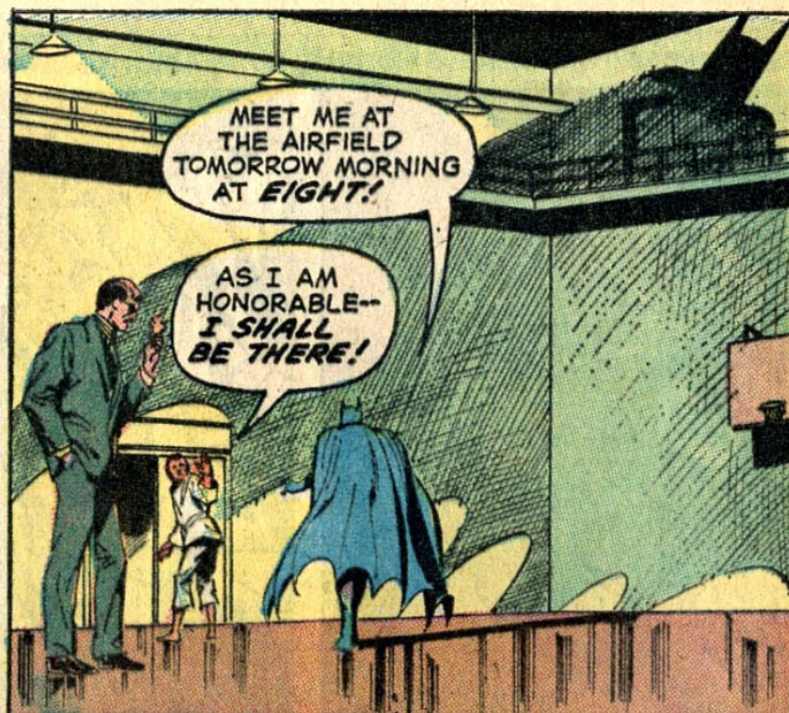
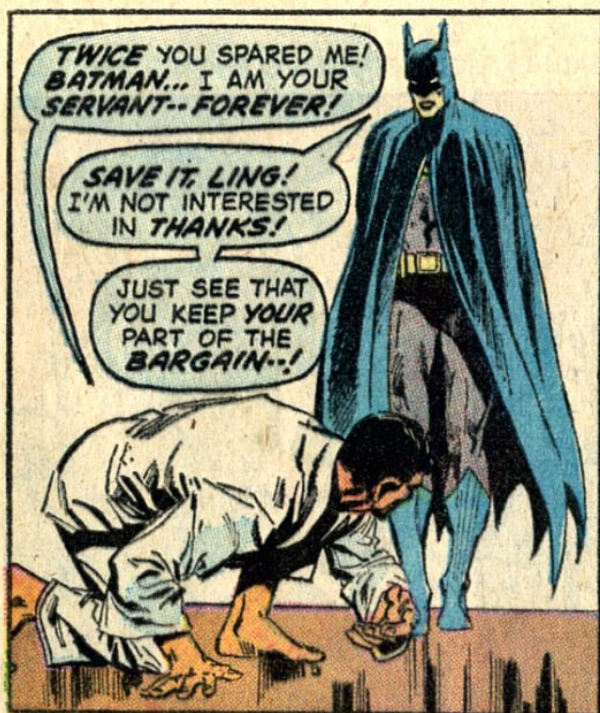
FOR THESE TWO, THERE IS NO TIME, NO PLACE... ONLY BREATH EXPLODING FROM CLENCHED TEETH...



...THE AWFUL PAIN OF MUSCLE STRAINED TO THE VERY *LIMIT*, AND THE STENCH OF THE *GRIMMEST* OF STRUGGLES...



IT HAS TAKEN EXACTLY *FOUR SECONDS*...AND A *LIFETIME*!

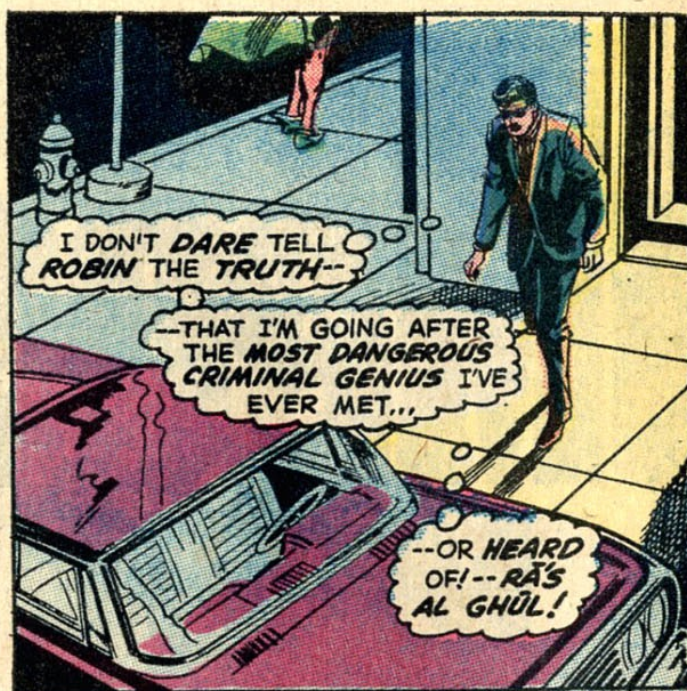


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THANKS FOR THE PLAY-ACTING! UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER--SO LONG!

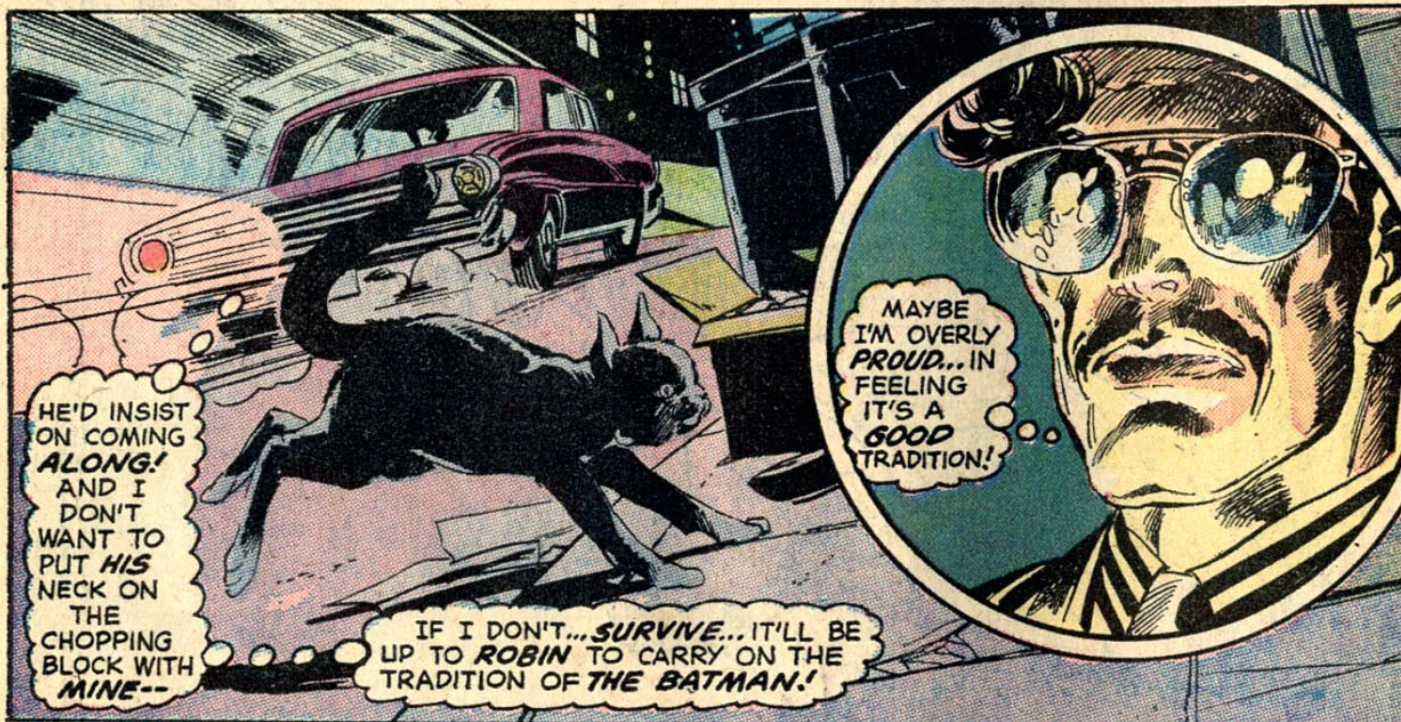
'BYE... AND LUCK!



I DON'T DARE TELL ROBIN THE TRUTH--

--THAT I'M GOING AFTER THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL GENIUS I'VE EVER MET...

--OR HEARD OF!-- RÄ'S AL GHÜL!



HE'D INSIST ON COMING ALONG! AND I DON'T WANT TO PUT HIS NECK ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK WITH MINE--

IF I DON'T... SURVIVE... IT'LL BE UP TO ROBIN TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF THE BATMAN!



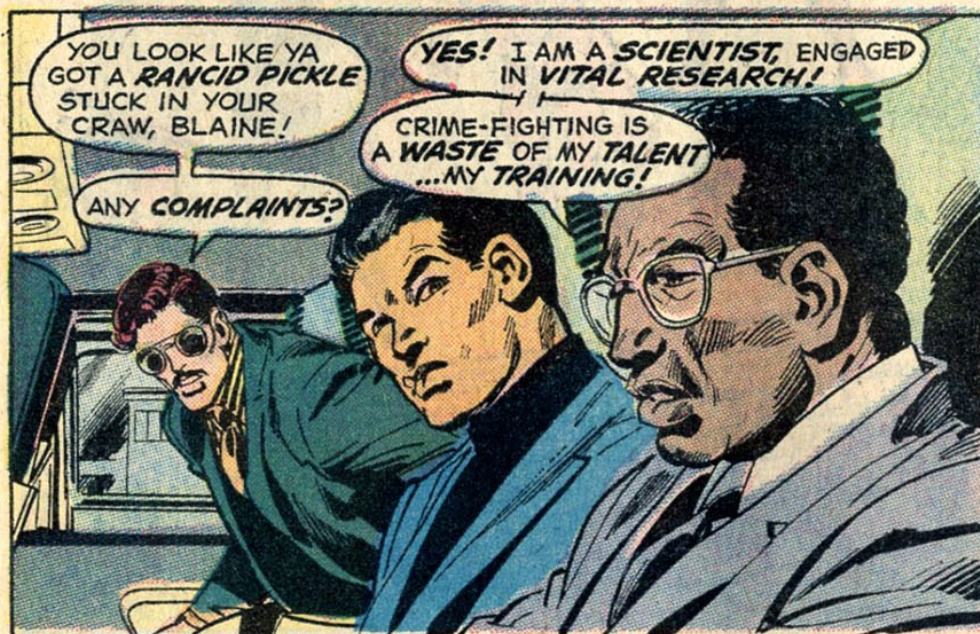
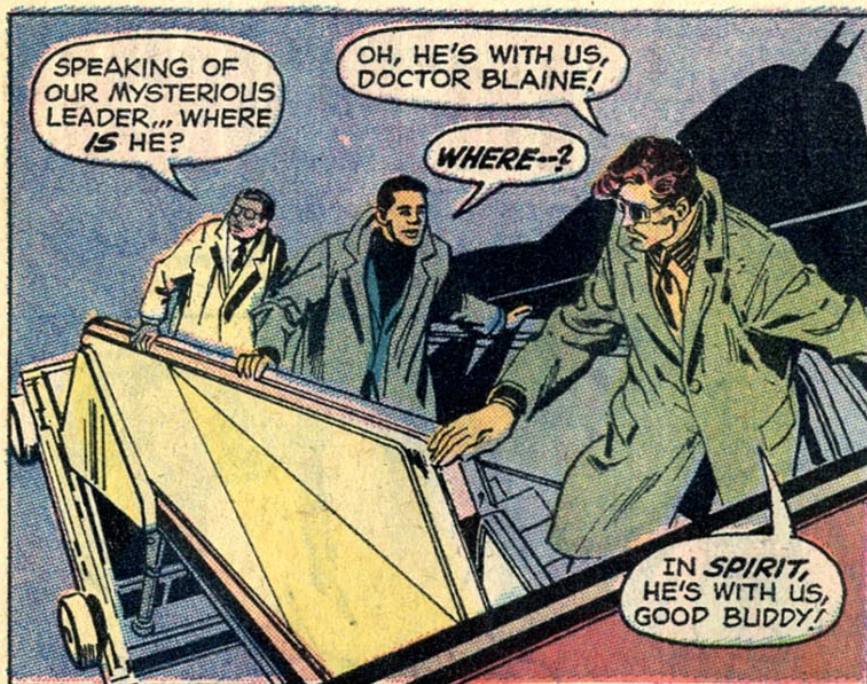
MAYBE I'M OVERLY PROUD... IN FEELING IT'S A GOOD TRADITION!

PRECISELY EIGHT HOURS LATER, THREE MEN ASSEMBLE ON THE WIND-CHILLED FLIGHT-LINE OF A PRIVATE AIRFIELD SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY...

I AM TO TRAVEL ON A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT? HOW DIFFERENT FROM THE CONVEYANCES OF MY ANCESTORS...

WHEN YA WORK FOR THE BATMAN, YA ALWAYS GO IN STYLE!





SOON, PASSING THROUGH CUSTOMS...

YOU GUYS CHECK
IN THE HOTEL! I'M
GONNA LOOK UP A
PAL! WE ONCE
SHARED A CELL!

MEET
YA FOR
EATS!



A CHARMING AVENUE!
I'VE HEARD IT SAID THE
SWISS ARE THE MOST
CIVILIZED--

LOOK!-- IN
THE CROWD!
IT IS TALIA...
DAUGHTER
OF THE HEAD
DEMON,
RÄS!



I SHALL
PLEASE THE
BATMAN BY
CAPTURING
HER!

WAIT!



LING!-- ALLY OF
MY FATHER!

NO LONGER!
I SERVE HIS
ENEMY!



...THE
BATM--NNGH!



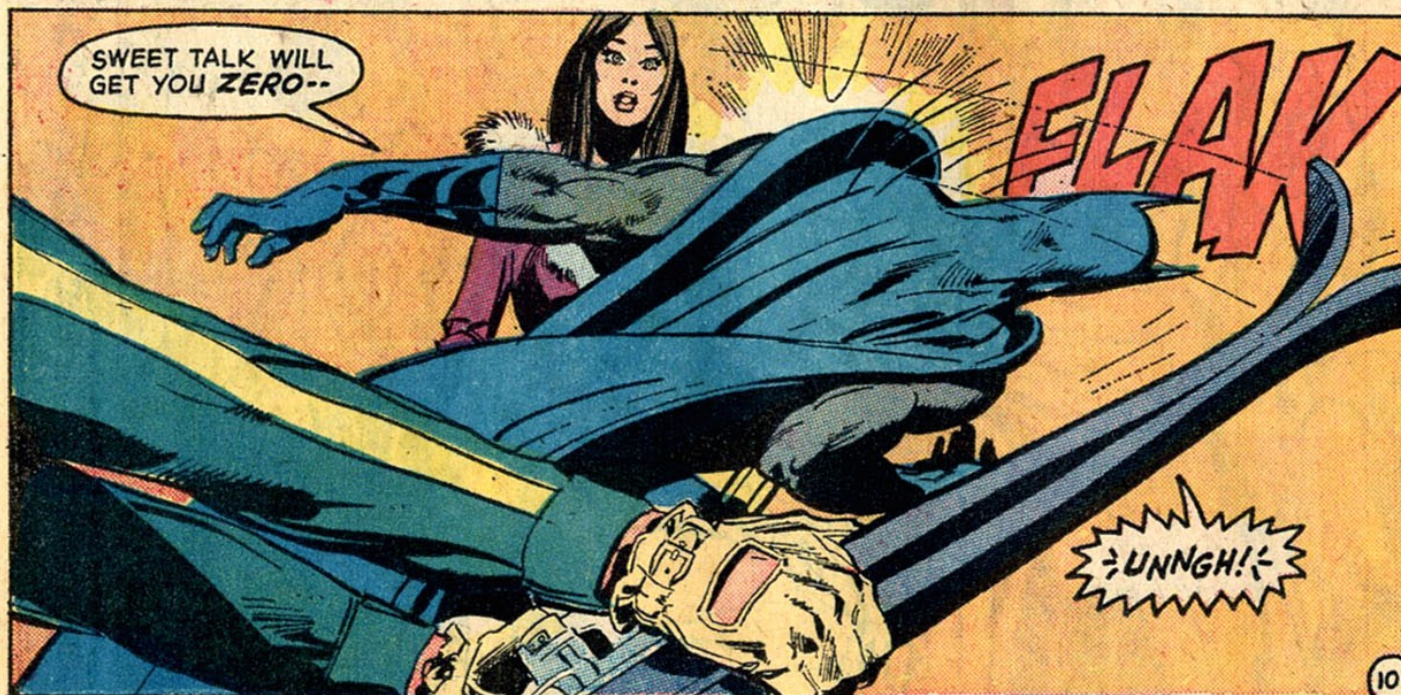
STAND ASIDE,
FOOLS! MY
MASTER'S
CHILD WOULD
HAVE
PASSAGE!

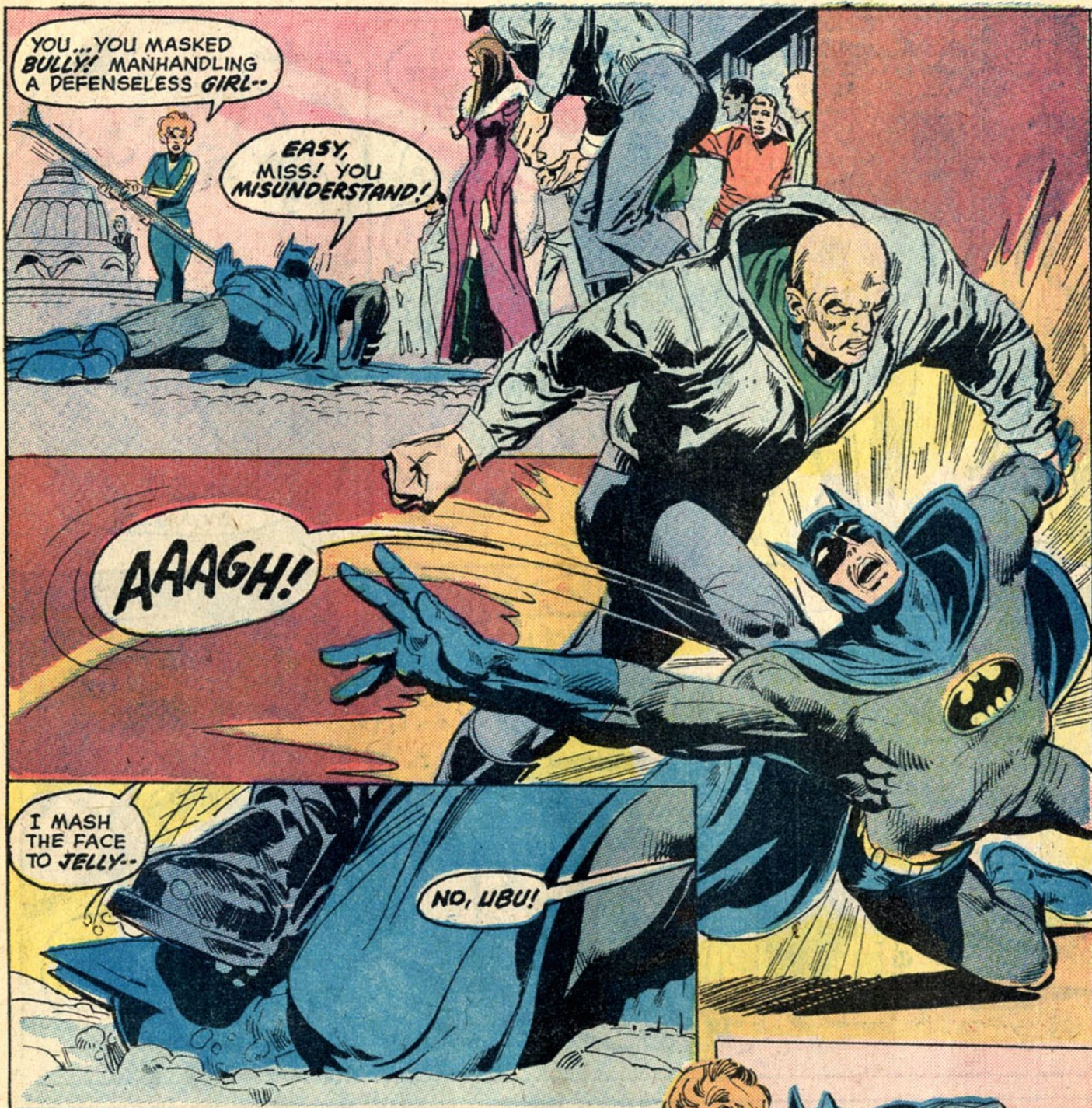
YOU'RE
NOT BEING
POLITE,
UBU!





*NOTE: THE COWLED CRUSADER MET--AND MASTERED--UBU IN BATMAN #232!





I MASH
THE FACE
TO JELLY--

NO, UBU!

AAAGH!

WE MUST
INFORM YOUR
MASTER-- MY
FATHER!

COME--
TO THE
AUTO-
MOBILE!

GOSH!
I'LL BET
I GOOFED!

YOU
OKAY?

MY BODY
WILL
RECOVER
QUICKLY! MY
PRIDE WILL
TAKE A BIT
LONGER!

I'LL FIND
A DOCTOR!



NO... WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST-- IN RAS AL GHUL'S DIRECTION!

--SO WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE A SECOND!

TALIA AND UBU WILL TELL HIM WE'RE HERE--

DID YOU SAY, RAS AL GHUL?

HE DID!



THAT... MONSTER! THAT ROTTEN... LYING...



YOU KNOW HIM?

SOMEONE I USED TO... LOVE... KNEW HIM! A MAN I WAS ENGAGED TO--! THE DEMON USED HIM... AND THEN DISCARDED HIM LIKE... GARBAGE!

MY FIANCE NEVER RECOVERED! HE'S BECOME A PIECE OF HUMAN FLOTSAM... HIDING INSIDE A BOTTLE!

FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, I GATHER YOU'RE PLANNING TO NAIL HIM! WELL... I'M ON YOUR SIDE!

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO RISK...



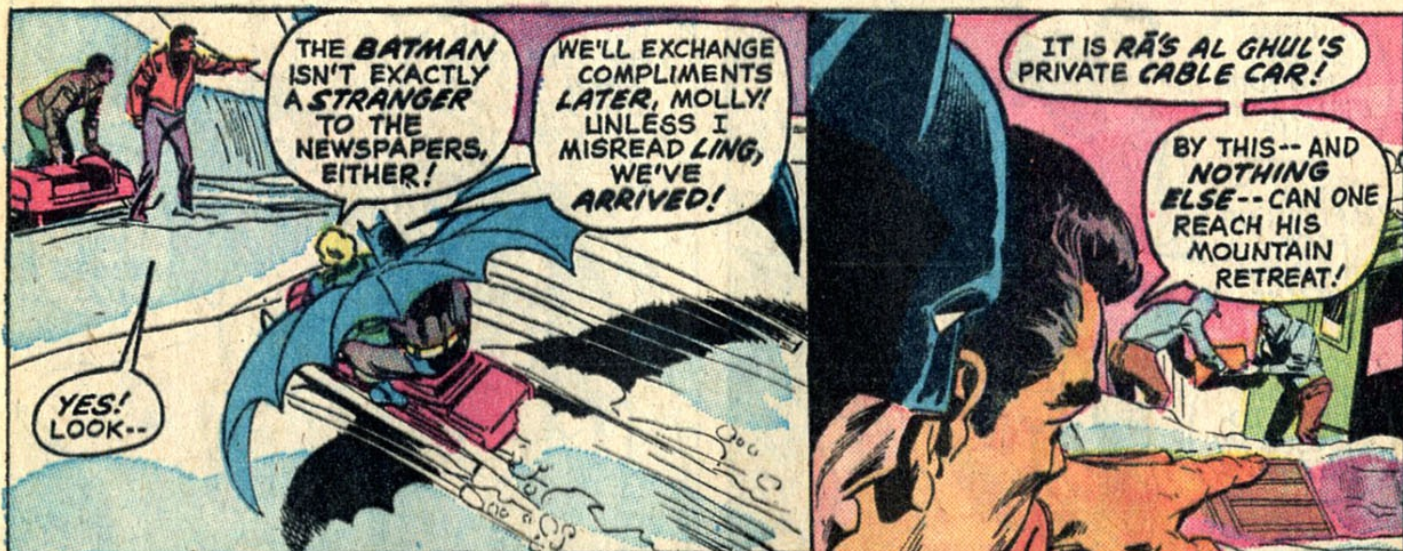
MISTER-- YOU JUST TRY TO STOP ME! I CAN BE AN EXTREMELY STUBBORN LADY!

SO I'VE HEARD... MOLLY!



HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I READ THE SPORTS PAGES... I'VE SEEN STORIES ABOUT MOLLY POST-- INTERNATIONAL SKI CHAMPION!



THE **BATMAN** ISN'T EXACTLY A **STRANGER** TO THE NEWSPAPERS, EITHER!

WE'LL EXCHANGE COMPLIMENTS LATER, MOLLY! UNLESS I MISREAD **LING**, WE'VE **ARRIVED!**

IT IS **RÄ'S AL GHUL'S** PRIVATE CABLE CAR!

BY THIS-- AND **NOTHING ELSE**-- CAN ONE REACH HIS MOUNTAIN RETREAT!

YES! LOOK--



WE MUST CONCEIVE A **SCHEME** FOR GETTING **CONTROL** OF THE CAR--

UH-UH...**TALIA** MAY HAVE **ALREADY** WARNED HER FATHER!

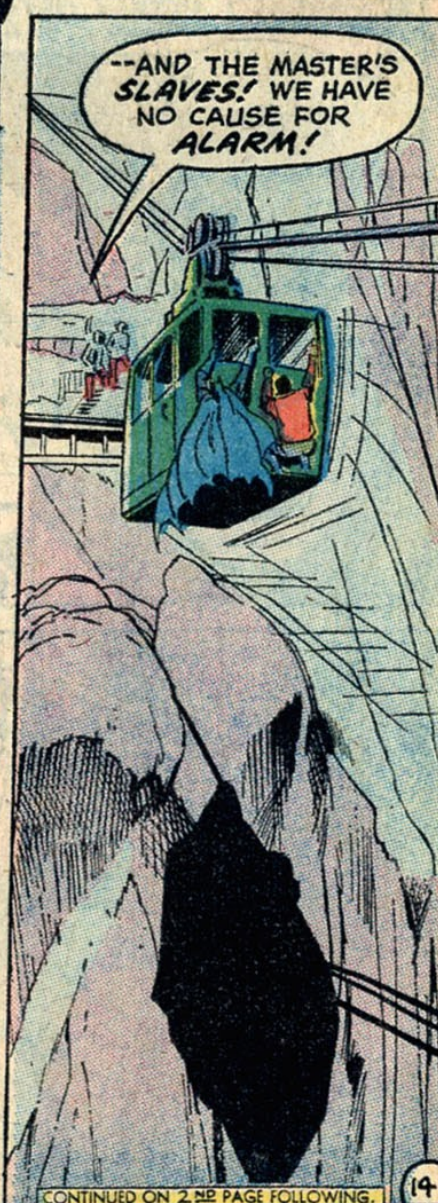
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR **MOVE NOW!**

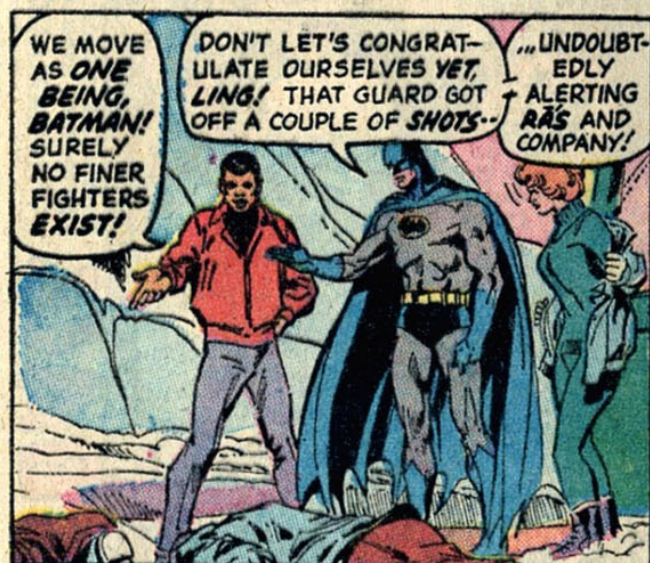


DIRECT ACTION IS CALLED FOR, **LING!**

-- LET'S GO!









IT'S IN A
CONCRETE
BUNKER...
A RELIC
OF WORLD
WAR
TWO--

--IT WOULD TAKE A MORTAR
TO KNOCK THEM OUT--



--AND WE
DON'T HAVE
SO MUCH
AS A
BEAN-
SHOOTER!

WE MAY HAVE
SOMETHING
BETTER, MISS
POST!--THIS!

YOU WILL BEST THE
FIREARM BY THROWING
A ROCK AT IT, ESTEEMED
SCIENTIST?



NOT A
ROCK, LING!
A BAR OF
SODIUM-19!

I FOUND IT WHILE
WE WERE RIDING
UP HERE, IN ONE
OF THESE CRATES!

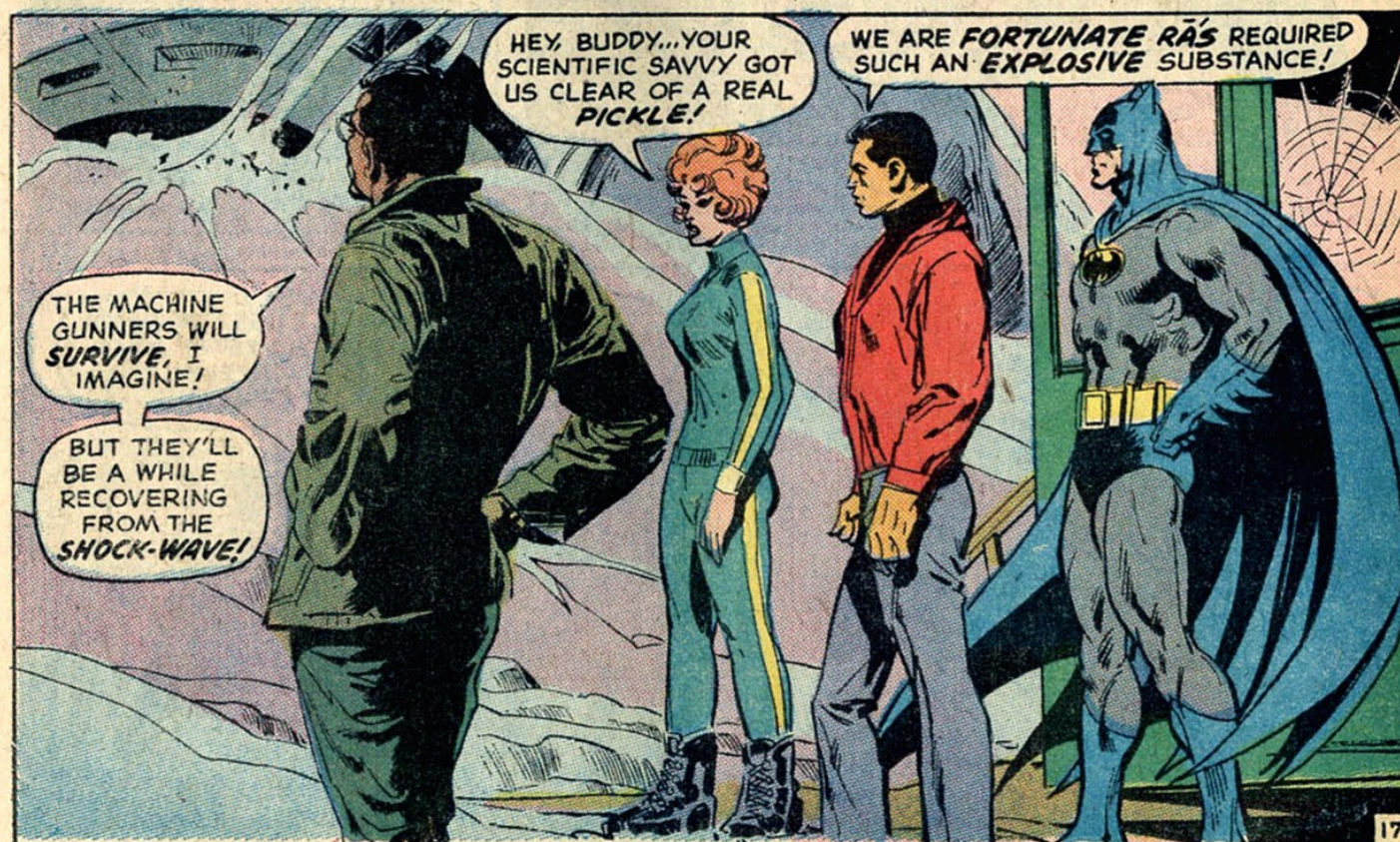
ORDINARY
SODIUM REACTS
VIOLENTLY WITH
WATER! THE
SODIUM-19
ISOTOPE...

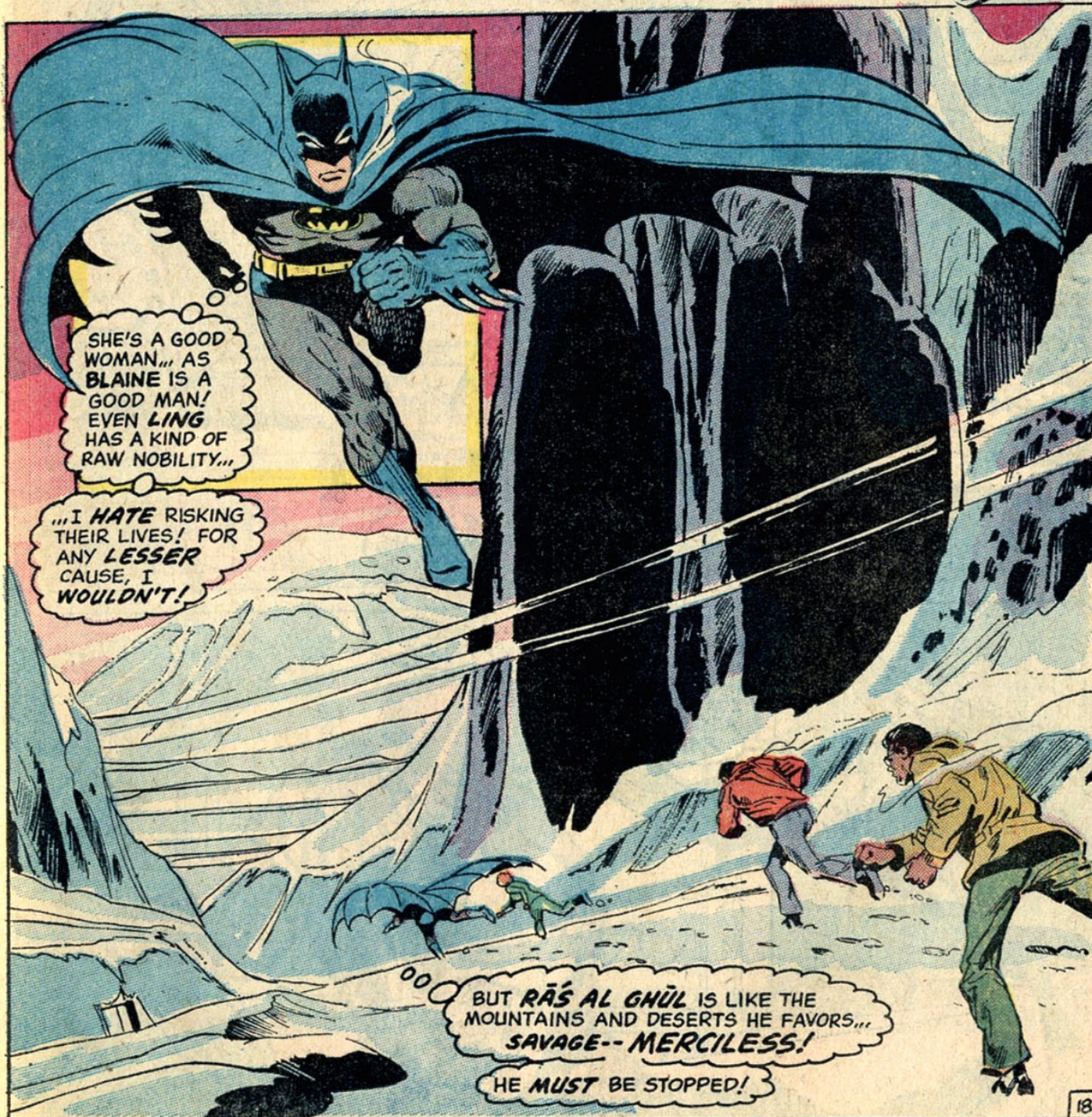


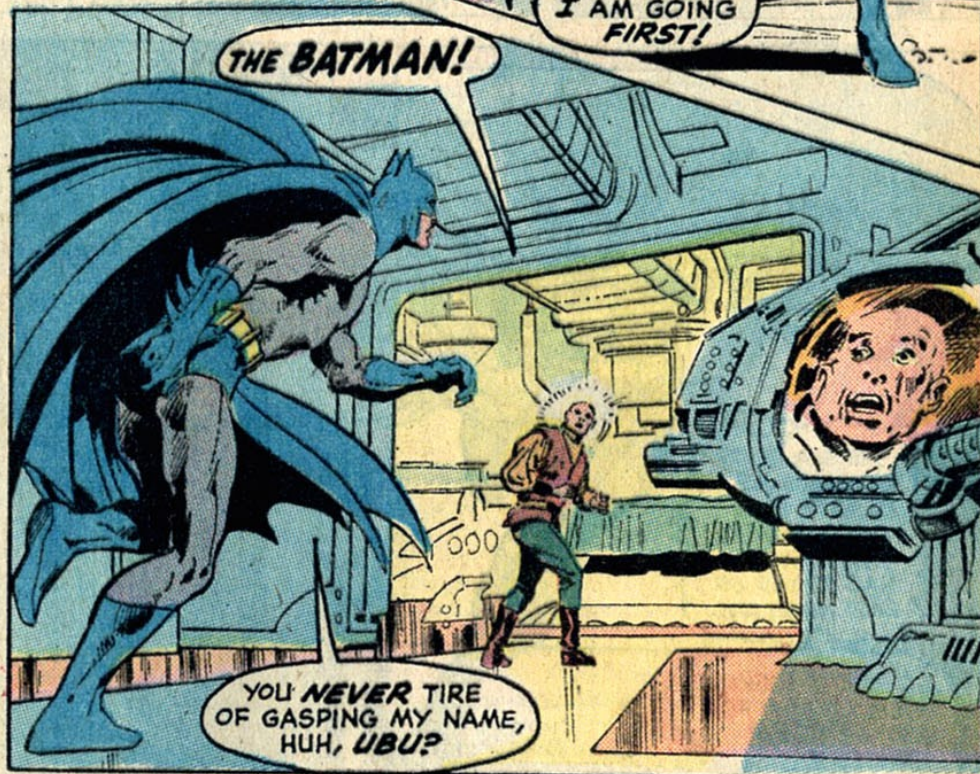
...WELL, I CAN DEMON-
STRATE EASIER THAN
I CAN EXPLAIN!

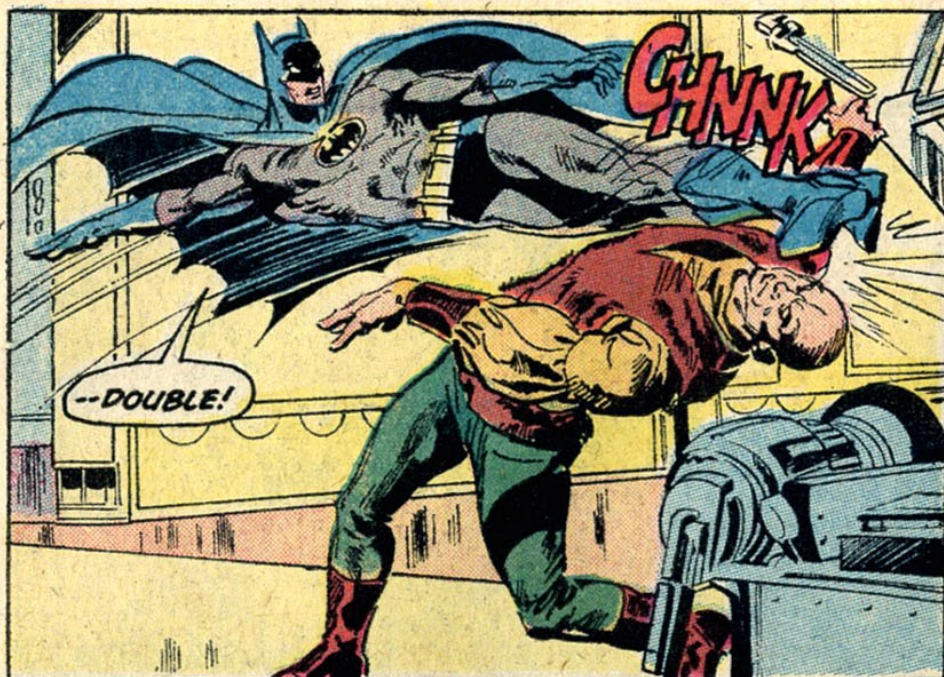
I USED TO THROW
A PRETTY MEAN
JAVELIN IN
COLLEGE--!

AND THE BAR IS THE
RIGHT WEIGHT...









--DOUBLE!



HE'LL SLEEP
THE SLEEP
OF THE
FAT,
UGLY
AND
STUPID...

BATMAN!
BEHIND
YOU!



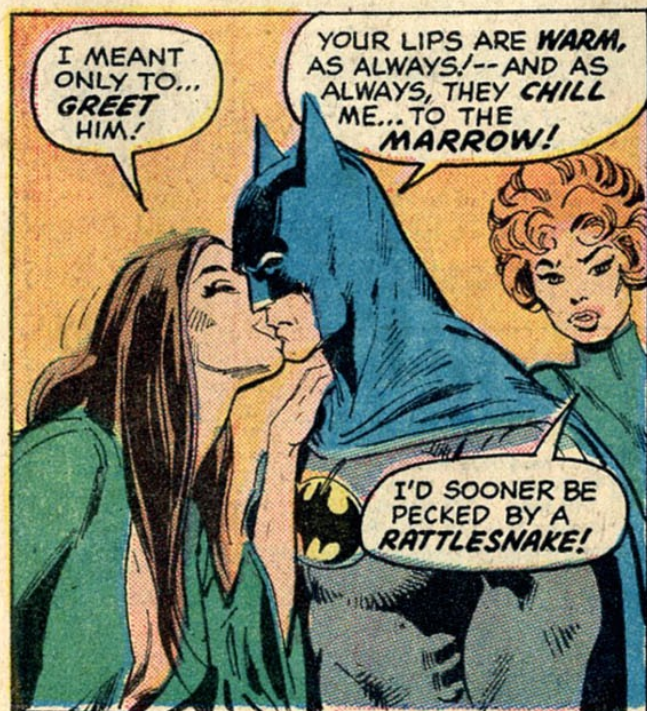
IT'S
DAUGHTER
TALIA!



SHE WAS TIPPY-TOEING
TOWARD YOU!

I'M BETTING HER
PRETTY HEAD IS
LOADED
WITH PURE
NASTY!

ON THE *CONTRARY*!
I MEAN MY
DARLING *BATMAN*
NO HARM--



I MEANT
ONLY TO...
GREET
HIM!

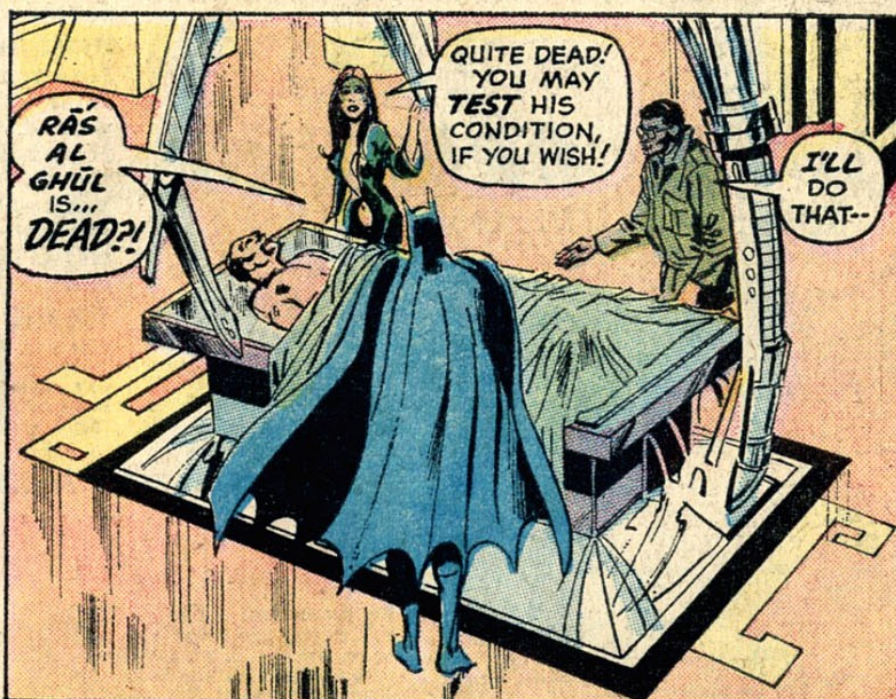
YOUR LIPS ARE *WARM*,
AS ALWAYS!-- AND AS
ALWAYS, THEY *CHILL*
ME... TO THE
MARROW!

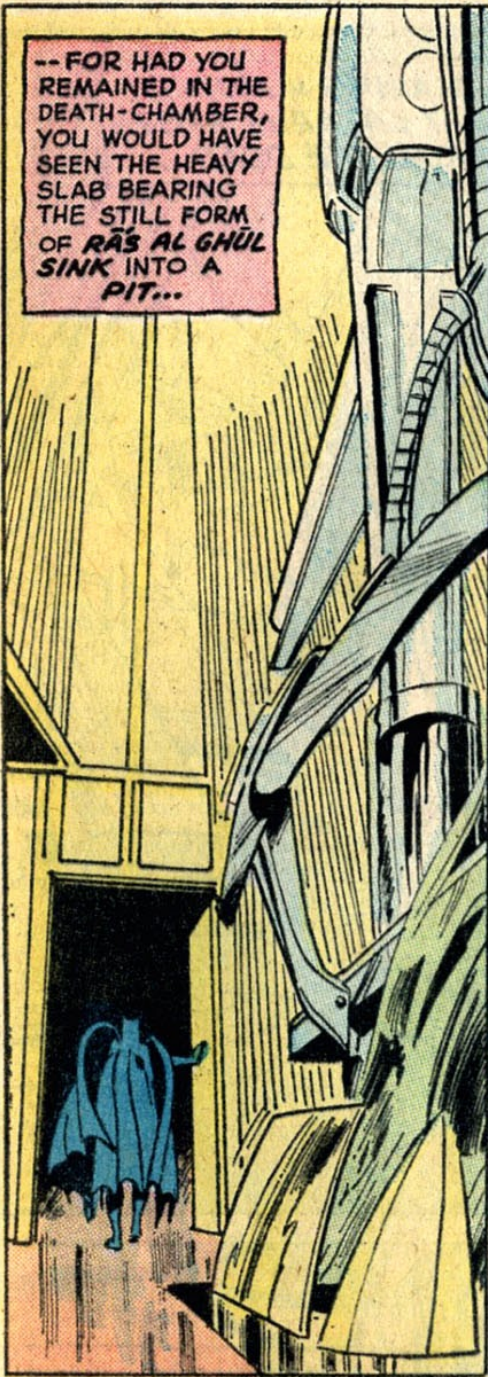
I'D SOONER BE
PECKED BY A
RATTLESNAKE!



I DON'T
SUPPOSE
YOU'RE WILLING
TO TELL
WHERE YOUR
FATHER IS?

GLADLY,
DARLING!
HE IS
PRESENT--





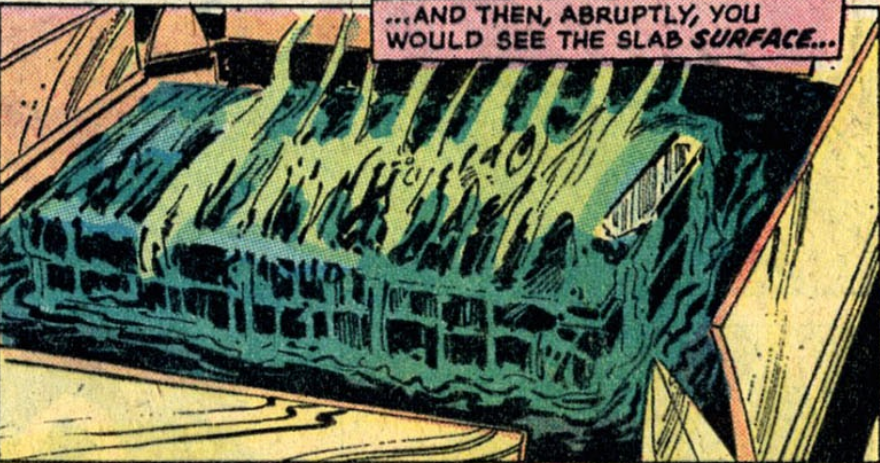
-- FOR HAD YOU
REMAINED IN THE
DEATH-CHAMBER,
YOU WOULD HAVE
SEEN THE HEAVY
SLAB BEARING
THE STILL FORM
OF *RĀS AL GHŪL*
SINK INTO A
PIT...



YOU WOULD HEAR A FAINT HISS...
AND SMELL A THICK, MUSTY ODOR
AS BUBBLING LIQUID COVERS IT...



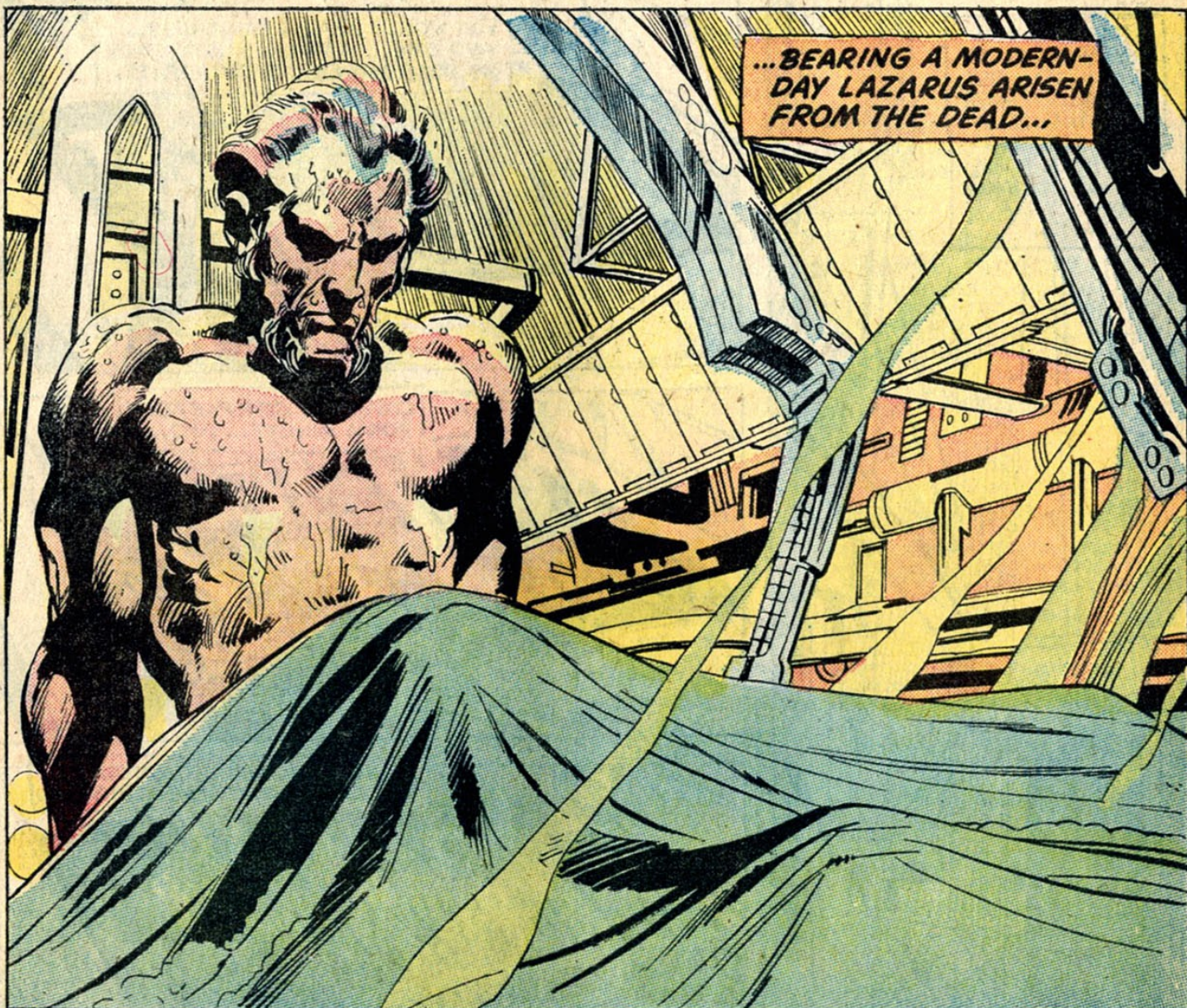
COVERS IT COMPLETELY
FOR A MINUTE... TWO...



...AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, YOU
WOULD SEE THE SLAB SURFACE...



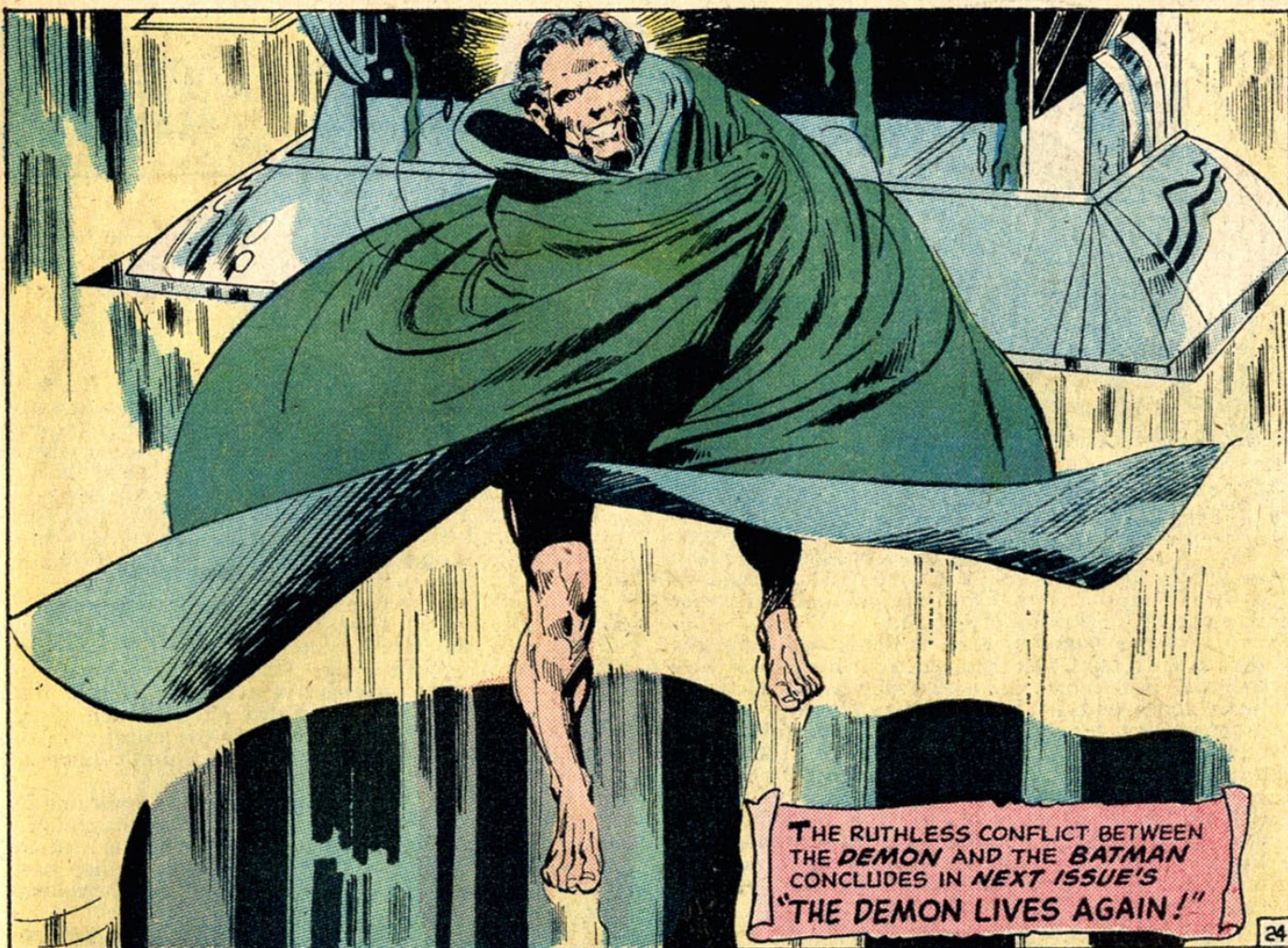
...RISE ABOVE
THE FLOOR...



...BEARING A MODERN-
DAY LAZARUS ARISEN
FROM THE DEAD...



--A MIRTHLESS, INSANE
JOY GLITTERING
IN HIS EYES!



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JULY 13TH

Tarzan



IS

HERE.

EVERY MONTH

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 27



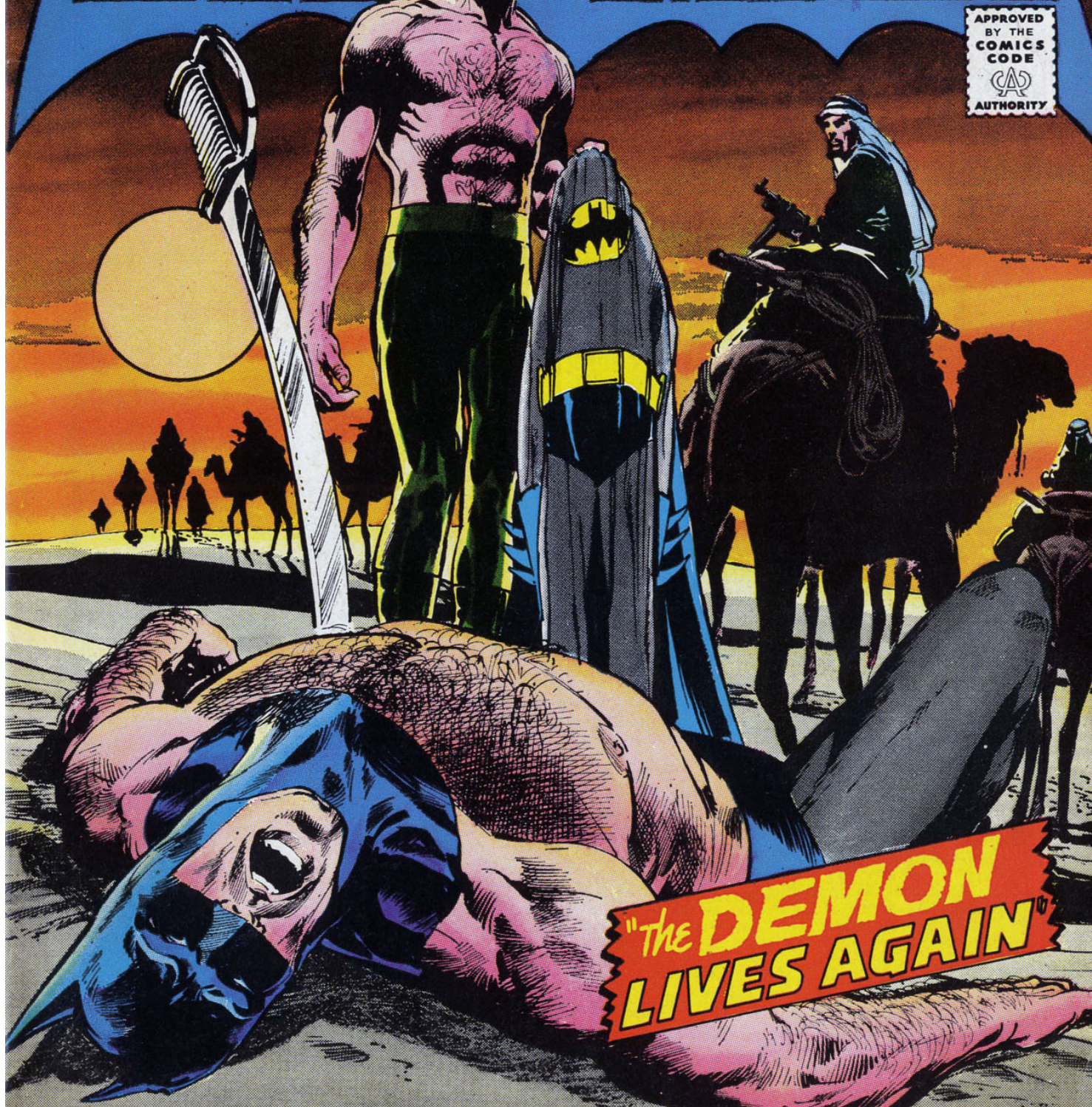


BATMAN

NO. 244
SEPT.
30430



BAT MAN



"The **DEMON**
LIVES AGAIN"

HEREWITH... ANOTHER INCREDIBLE
CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF THE
WORLD'S GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTER...

COME TO A CHALET NESTLED
HIGH IN THE SWISS ALPS...
FEEL THE CLEAN BITE OF WINTER
AND LISTEN TO A DISTANT SCREAM
OF WIND IN ENDLESS CREVICES...

HERE THE BATMAN AND HIS
COMPANIONS HAVE CAPTURED
TALIA, DAUGHTER OF ARCH-
CRIMINAL RÅS AL GHÛL...

HERE, ALSO, THEY WATCHED
RÅS HIMSELF DIE... THEY
THOUGHT!

BUT NOW, A POWERFUL FIGURE
LEAPS TOWARD THEM, A SNARL
IN HIS THROAT AND BLOOD-LUST
GLITTERING IN HIS EYES--

THE DEMON LIVES AGAIN!!

STORY BY:
DENNY O' NEIL

ART BY:
NEAL ADAMS &
DICK GIORDANO

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MINUTES EARLIER, RĀS'S DEAD BODY HAD SUNK INTO A FOUL-SMELLING HOLE-- THE LAZARUS PIT... HAD LAIN THERE FOR A HANDFUL OF SECONDS...

THEN, SLOWLY, THE SLAB ON WHICH HE LAY ROSE... THE STILL FORM STIRRED...

...ERUPTED INTO FURIOUS MOTION!

AND NOW...

IT'S...IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S DEAD! I EXAMINED HIS CORPSE PERSONALLY!

THEN THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE!

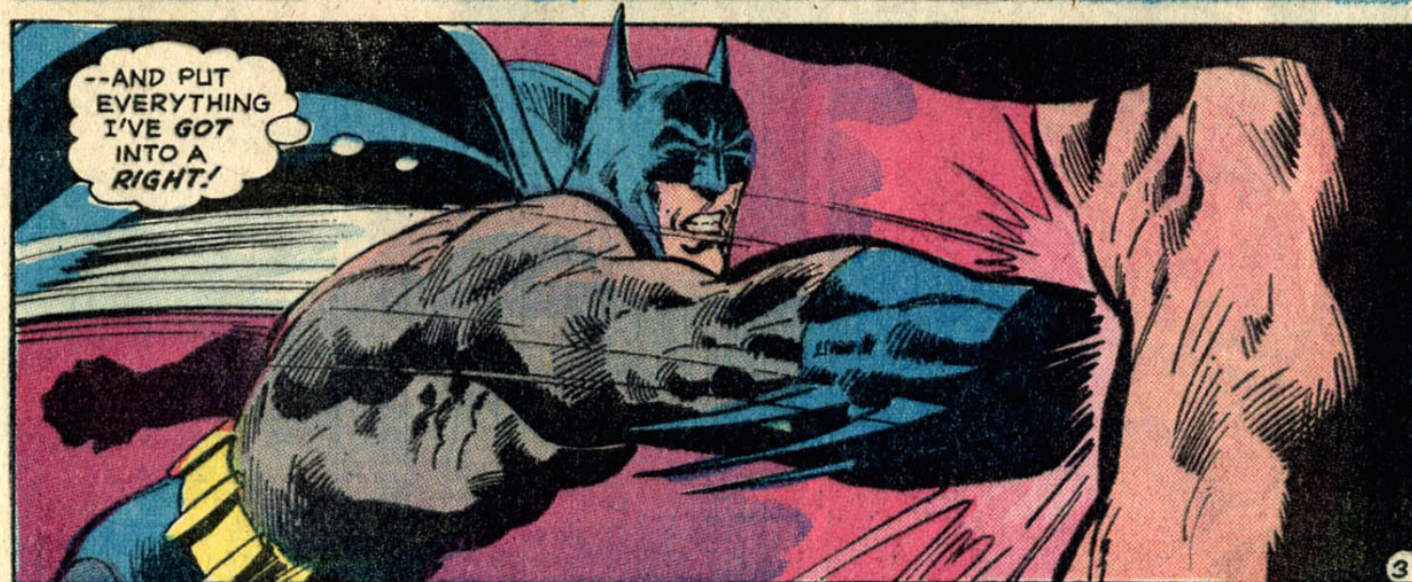
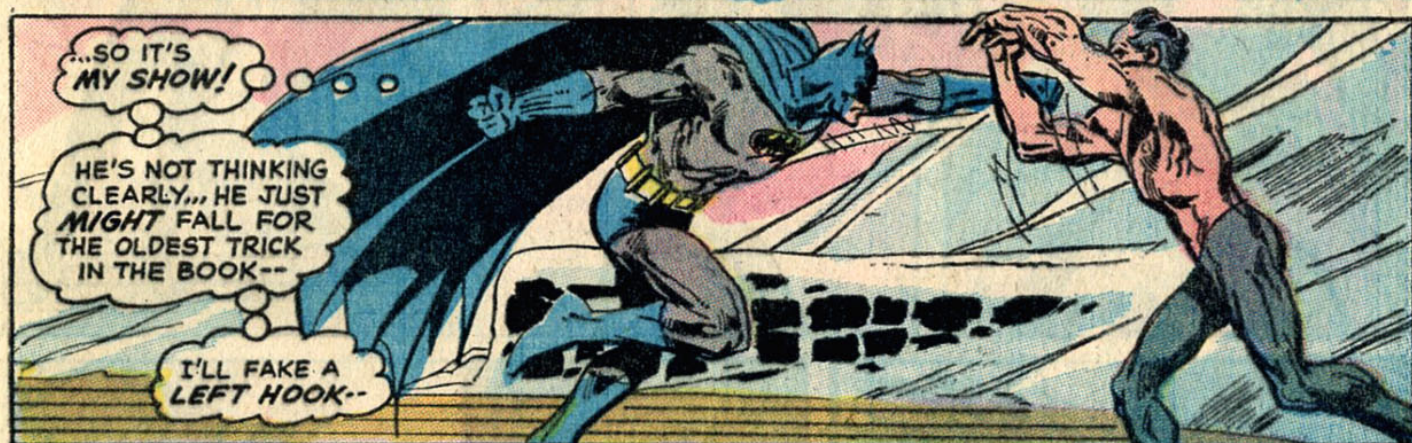
...THE LEGENDS THAT SAY RĀS AL GHŪL HAS BEEN REBORN MANY TIMES!

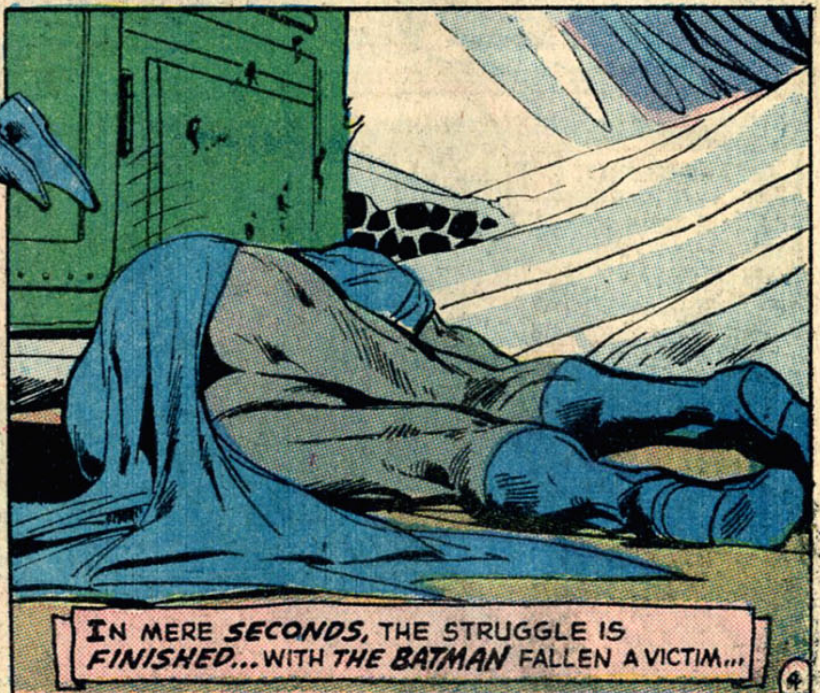
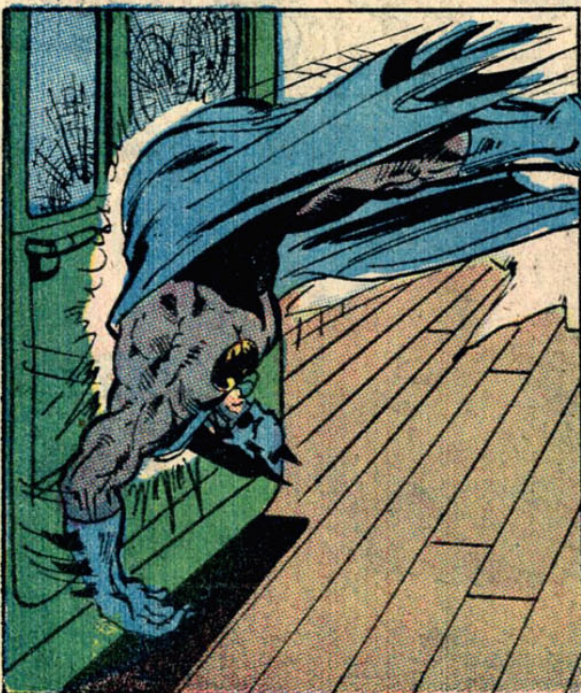
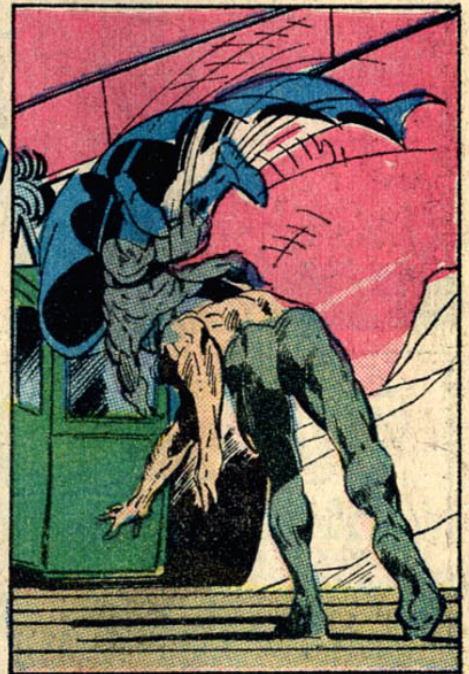
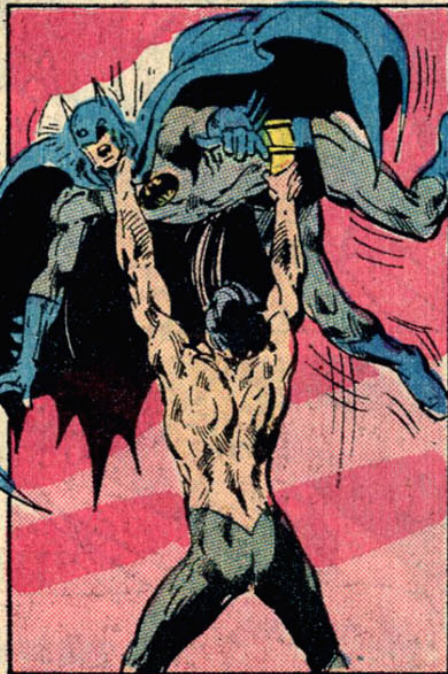
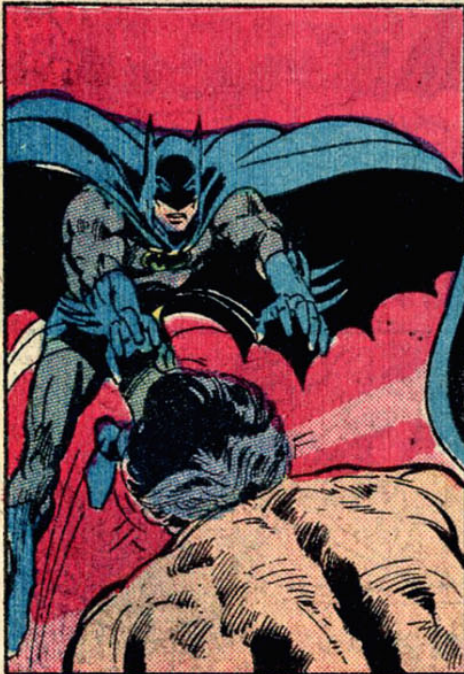
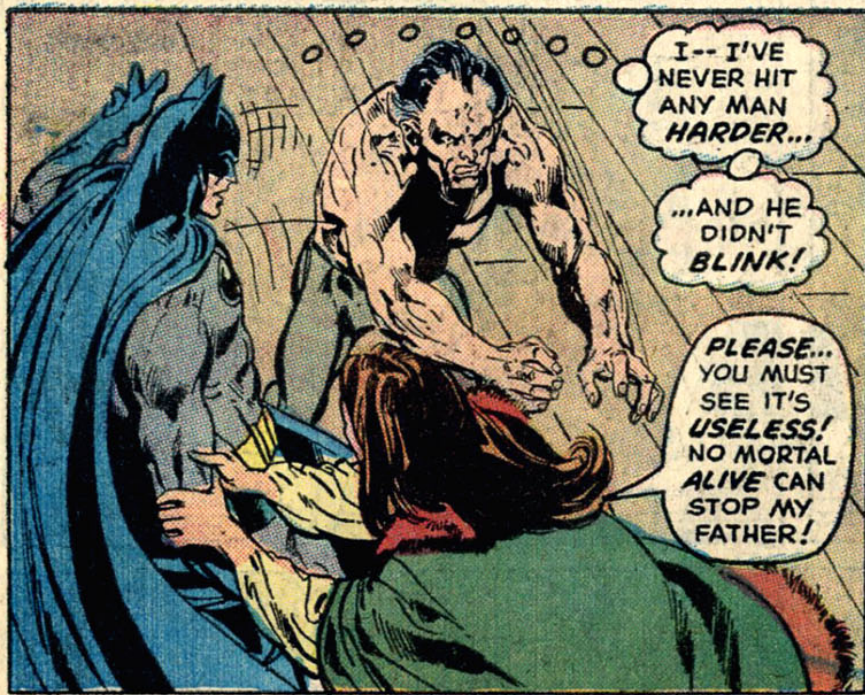
YES--

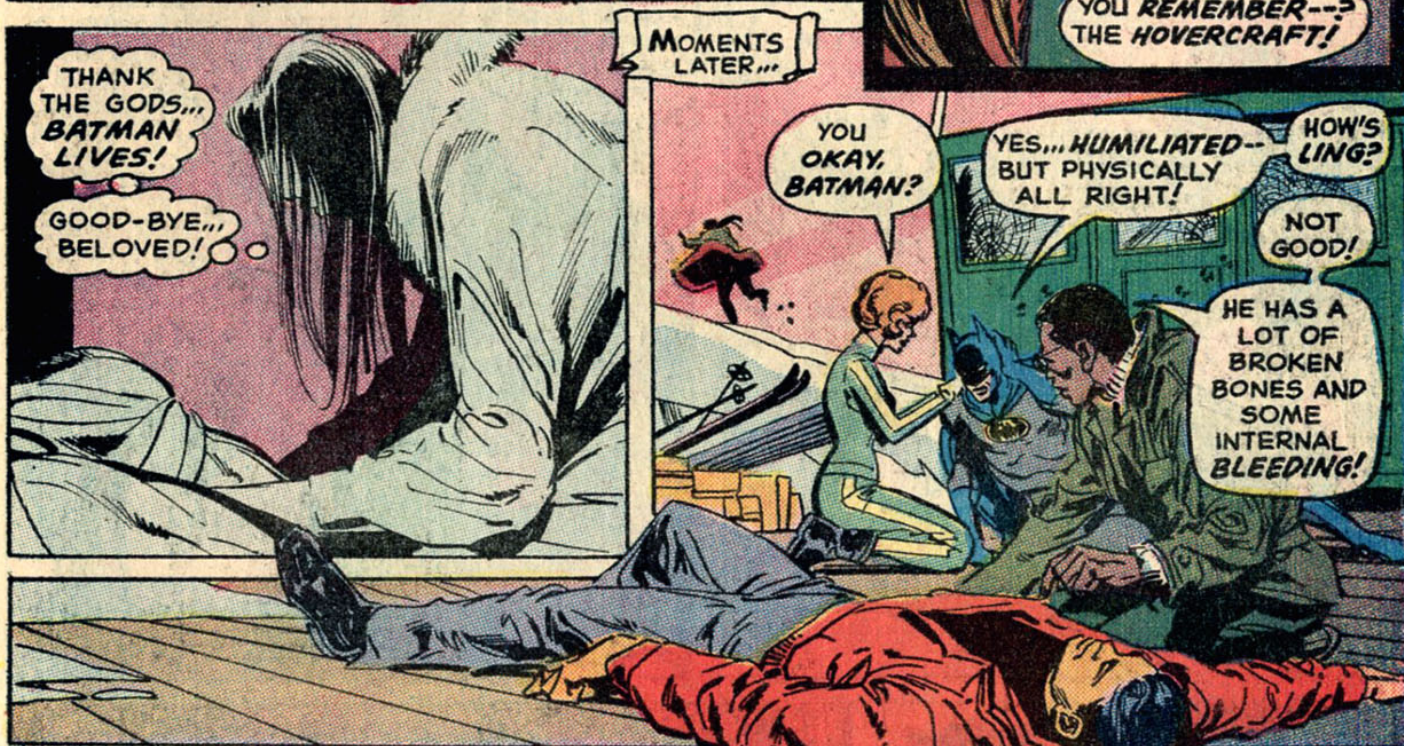
AND MORE! WHEN MY FATHER FIRST RETURNS TO LIFE, HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TEN--

--A FIT OF MADNESS SEIZES HIM!

CAREFUL, LING... DON'T TRY UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH!



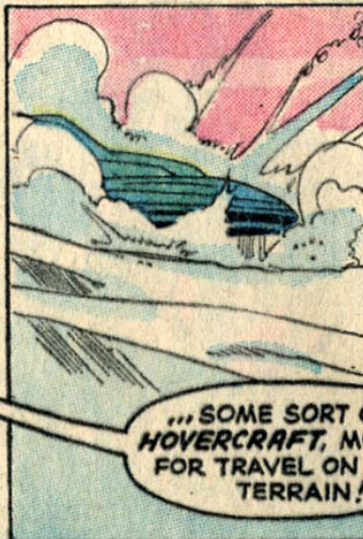
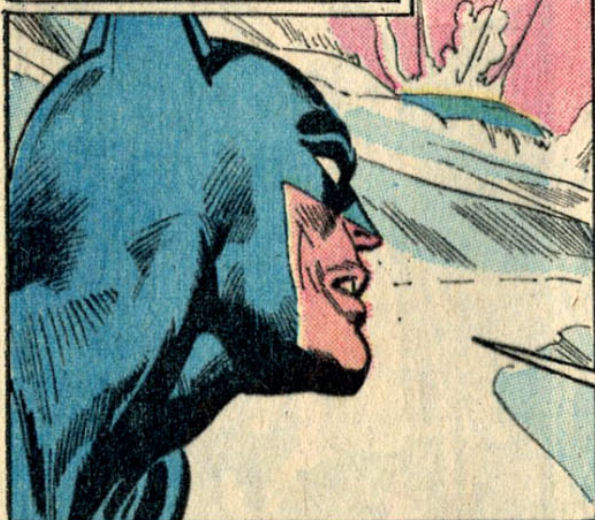




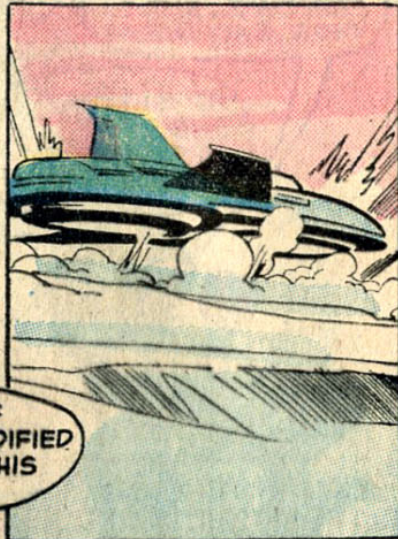
THE BATMAN LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION MOLLY IS POINTING... AND, SUDDENLY, THERE IS THE SOUND OF A POWERFUL ENGINE! SNOW SHIFTS...

...THE WHITENESS DROPS AWAY TO REVEAL SLEEK, SHINY **STEEL** --

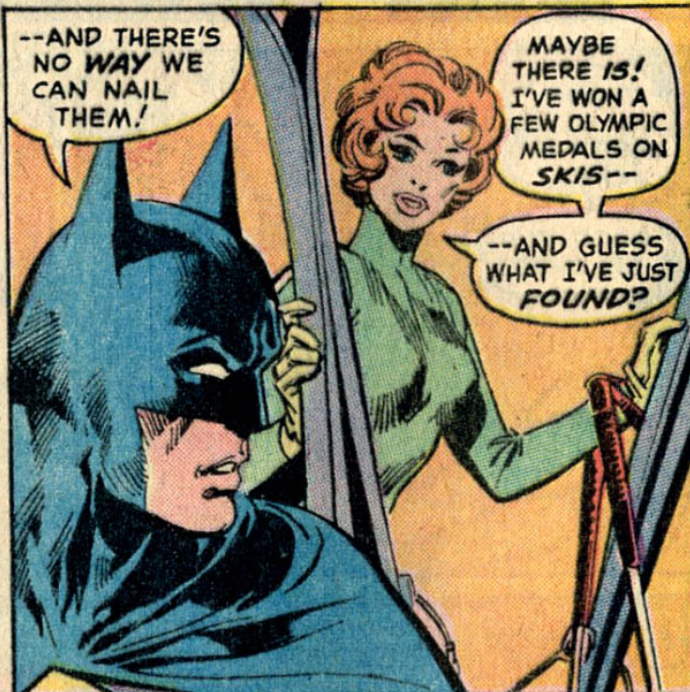
--AND A STRANGELY SHAPED **CRAFT** LIFTS INTO THE AIR!...



...SOME SORT OF **HOVERCRAFT**, MODIFIED FOR TRAVEL ON THIS TERRAIN!



RÄ'S AND **TALIA** ARE GETTING AWAY CLEAN--



--AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN NAIL THEM!

MAYBE THERE IS! I'VE WON A FEW OLYMPIC MEDALS ON **SKIS**--

--AND GUESS WHAT I'VE JUST FOUND?



MISS POST... YOU'RE A **TREASURE!**

WITH **THESE**, I HAVE AT LEAST A **CHANCE**--

CORRECTION... WE HAVE A **CHANCE!**

I'M **TIRED** OF YOU DOING ALL THE **WORK!**



I CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO **ENDANGER**...

TO **STOP** ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO **CATCH** ME!

--**BYE-BYE!**

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WITHIN A
HEARTBEAT,
THE BATMAN
IS HURLING
AFTER
MOLLY POST!

THE LONG, STEEP SLOPE IN
FRONT OF HIM IS A BLUR...
EVERY MUSCLE REACTING
TO THE CHALLENGE OF
SPEED, SNOW AND WIND--

MOLLY'S GOOD...
VERY GOOD!

SHE'S CHOSEN A ROUTE
THAT'LL GET US TO THE
BOTTOM *BEFORE* THE HOVER-
CRAFT-- *MAYBE!*

UNFORTUNATELY,
IT'S ALSO A PATH
FULL OF
OBSTACLES
AND **DROP-
OFFS!**

THE GIRL IS
INCREDIBLE!
SHE'S GOTTEN
IN *FRONT* OF
RÅ'S AND
TALIA--

HOW
CAN SHE
POSSIBLY
HOPE TO
HALT
THEM?

HOPE I
CAN FINISH
WITHOUT
BREAKING
A **LIMB!**

IT WAS BAD
ENOUGH BEING
HUMILIATED
BY **RÅ'S--**

--TO BE SHOWN
UP BY **MOLLY**
WOULD BE MORE
THAN MY PRIDE
COULD **STAND!**

THEN, THE BATMAN'S UNVOICED QUESTION IS ANSWERED--- FOR THE GIRL HEAVES A SKI-POLE AT THE ON-RUSHING VEHICLE... THROWS IT AT THE SPINNING PROPELLER WHICH HOLDS THE CRAFT ALOFT--

...ALUMINUM CLASHES WITH STEEL--TO PERFECT EFFECT! THE PROPELLER IS FOULED...



BUT THE ALUMINUM POLE, UNFIT FOR SUCH A STRAIN, SNAPS! A JAGGED END IS FLUNG TOWARD MOLLY...



...AND...



AS RÅ'S AL GHŪL AND HIS DAUGHTER STUMBLE AWAY, THE BATMAN SKIDS TO MOLLY'S SIDE...

THE YOUNG FOOL RUINED OUR VEHICLE!

HURRY, FATHER... WE MUST FLEE! THE BATMAN IS COMING--

AND I DOUBT YOU'LL BEST HIM IN COMBAT A SECOND TIME!

BLAST!-- A ROTTEN CHOICE... CHASE RÅ'S... OR GET MOLLY TO MEDICAL HELP!

NO... NOT REALLY ANY CHOICE AT ALL!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



GUESS I MESSED YOU OVER, HUH, BIG FELLA? GETTING MYSELF *STUCK* IN THE CRUNCH!

I'M *SORRY*...



DON'T BE, KID! YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL... ONE OF THE *BEST*!

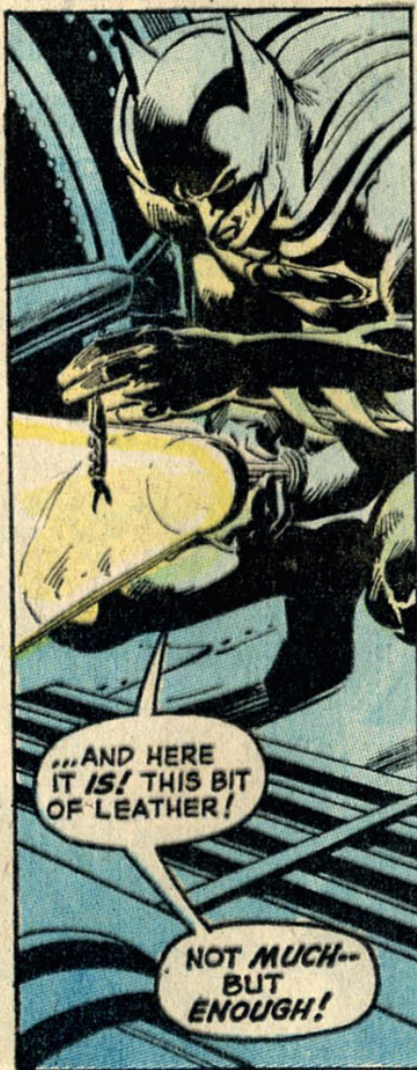
AND, AS MIDNIGHT WRAPS THE MOUNTAINSIDE IN CHILL DARKNESS, THE BATMAN RETURNS!...



LUCK HAS TO GO MY WAY SOONER OR LATER!

MAYBE RÄ'S LEFT A TRACE... A CLUE!

IF I FIND SOMETHING--ANYTHING--TO GIVE ME A START...



...AND HERE IT IS! THIS BIT OF LEATHER!

NOT MUCH-- BUT ENOUGH!



MOLLY AND LING ARE BADLY INJURED... MATCHES MALONE IS DEAD... SO I'M LEFT TO FACE RÄ'S AL GHÜL ALONE!

...GUESS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD BE JUST RÄ'S AND BATMAN AT THE... END!

HEAT... FIERCE AND
MERCILESS... A SUN
THAT STINGS THE
EYES AND AIR THAT
SCORCHES THE
LUNGS AND HUNDREDS
OF MILES OF SAND
THAT SHIMMERS AND
GISTENS AND BURNS...

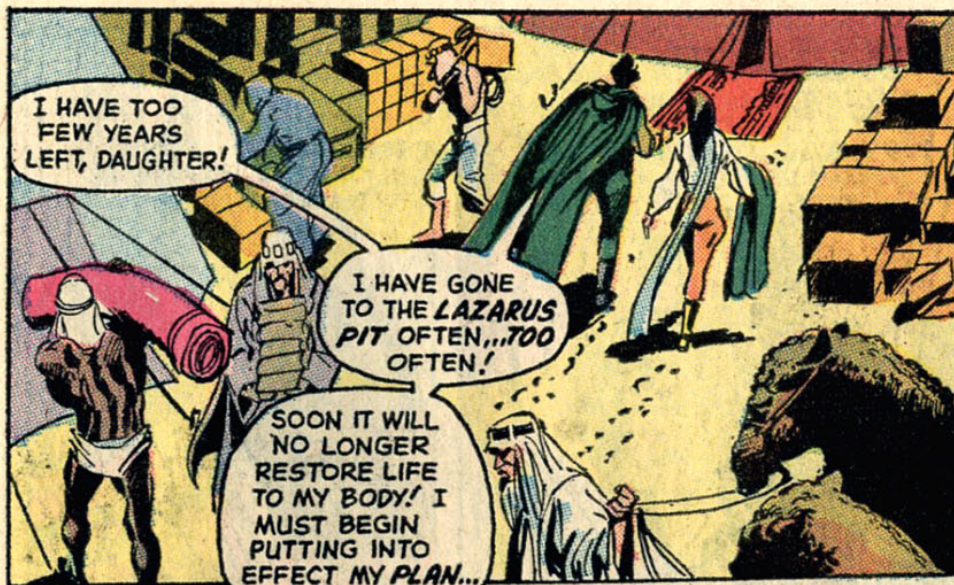
THIS... IS THE **DESERT!**-- A HELLISH
PANORAMA OF BLAZING EMPTINESS
THAT DEFIES LIVING CREATURES...

YET, MEN DO
LIVE HERE!
AND STRANGER
STILL, SOME
MEN PROSPER...

YOU SENT FOR
MANY SUPPLIES,
FATHER! I SEE AT
LEAST FIFTY
CAMELS!

IT WAS
NECESSARY!
THE **DETECTIVE**
...THE **BATMAN**...
DESTROYED
SEVERAL OF
MY BASES!

WE HAVE MUCH
REBUILDING TO
DO!



I HAVE TOO FEW YEARS LEFT, DAUGHTER!

I HAVE GONE TO THE LAZARUS PIT OFTEN...TOO OFTEN!

SOON IT WILL NO LONGER RESTORE LIFE TO MY BODY! I MUST BEGIN PUTTING INTO EFFECT MY PLAN...



...MY PLANS TO RESTORE HARMONY TO OUR SAD PLANET!



I HAVE BEEN CALLED CRIMINAL AND GENIUS... AND I AM NEITHER! I AM AN ARTIST!

I HAVE A VISION... OF AN EARTH AS CLEAN AND PURE AS A SNOW-SWEPT MOUNTAIN...

...OR THE DESERT OUTSIDE!



IT IS THE VISION OF A MADMAN!

HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY TENT UNASKED?!



I'M NOT ABOUT TO STAND ON CEREMONY, RA'S!

THE DETECTIVE! I WOULD SAY YOUR PRESENCE IS IMPOSSIBLE-- IF I DID NOT KNOW YOUR ABILITIES!

MAY I ASK HOW YOU FOUND ME?



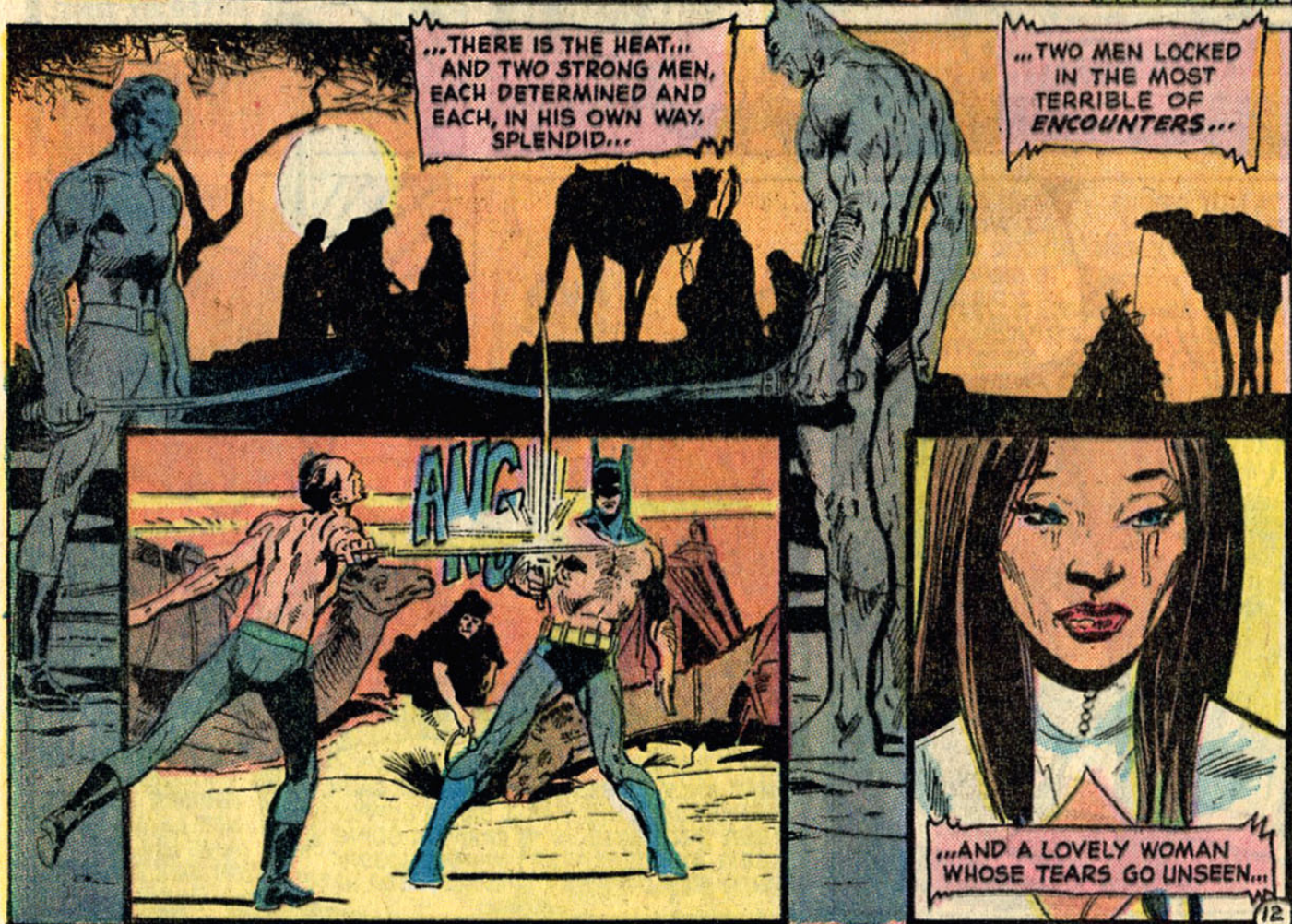
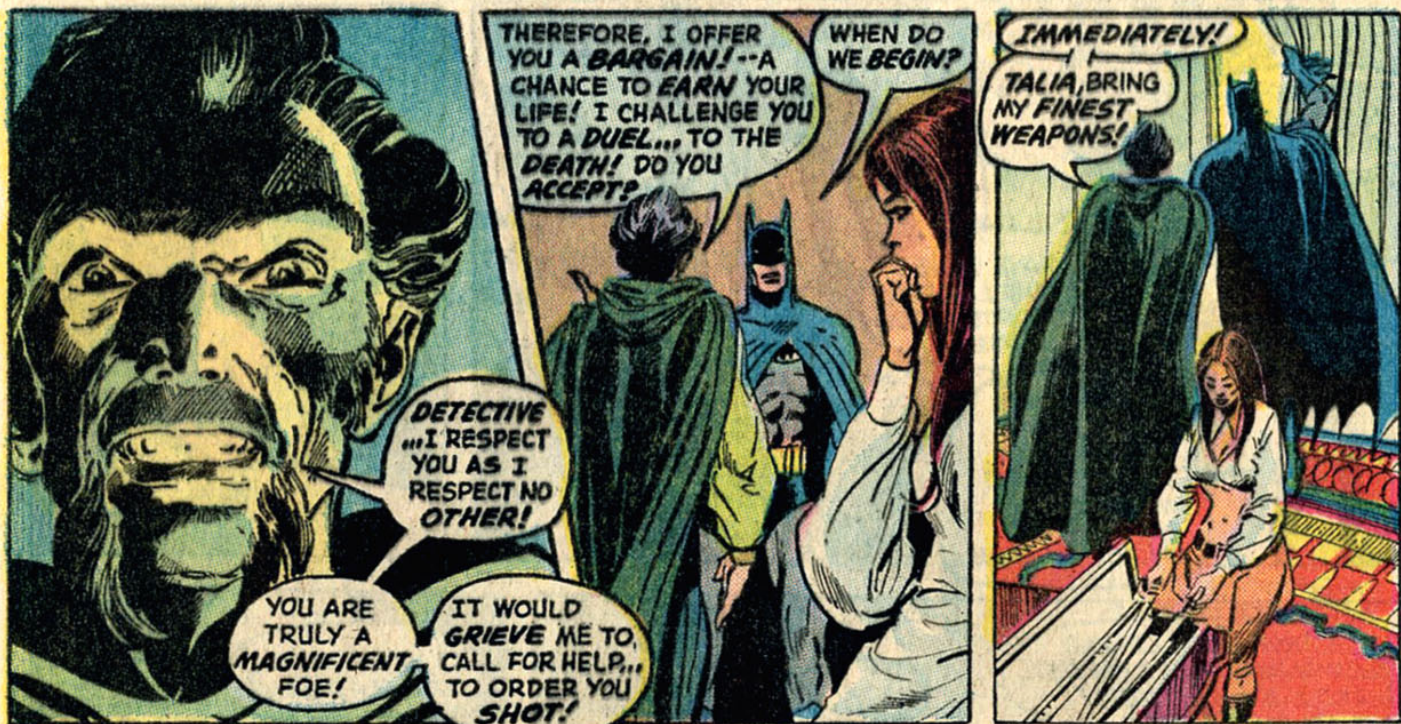
YOU DROPPED THIS... A CAMEL'S BRIDLE!

AND I RECALLED THAT ONLY TRIBESMEN FROM THIS AREA DECORATE THEIR ANIMALS' GEAR WITH BEADWORK!



THEN I SIMPLY OBSERVED UNTIL I SAW A SUPPLY-CARAVAN GOING WHERE NOBODY IS SUPPOSED TO BE!

THOUGH I'VE NEVER INTENTIONALLY KILLED... I SWEAR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE UNLESS YOU SURRENDER!



A large comic book panel showing Batman in his classic suit (blue and grey with a yellow belt) fighting Scorpion. Scorpion is a muscular man with a scorpion mask and green pants, holding a sword. They are in a desert landscape with a red sunset sky. In the background, other figures are visible, including a man on a horse and a woman. The scene is dynamic with action lines and dramatic lighting.

THIS LONG AFTERNOON IS FILLED WITH THE CLANGOR OF CLASHING BLADES...

...AND THE STENCH OF BODIES STRAINED TO THE LIMIT OF HUMAN ENDURANCE...

THE SUN REDDENS, DIMS, SLIPS BEHIND THE DISTANT DUNES... SHADOWS SOFTEN THE HARSHNESS AND CREEP ACROSS THE WASTES...

...AND IT HAS DECREED ME VICTOR! FAREWELL, GREATEST OF ENIMIES!

YOU ARE PROUD, DETECTIVE! YOU DO NOT PLEAD FOR AID...

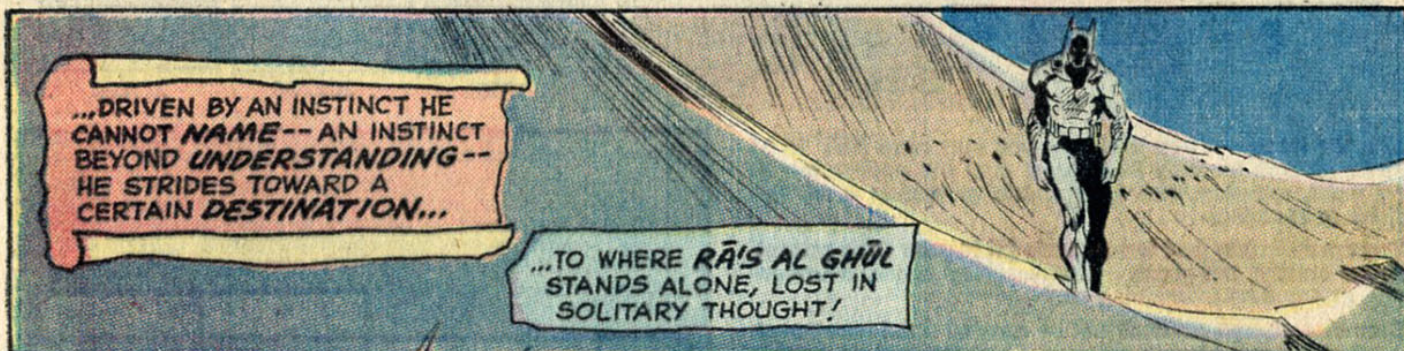
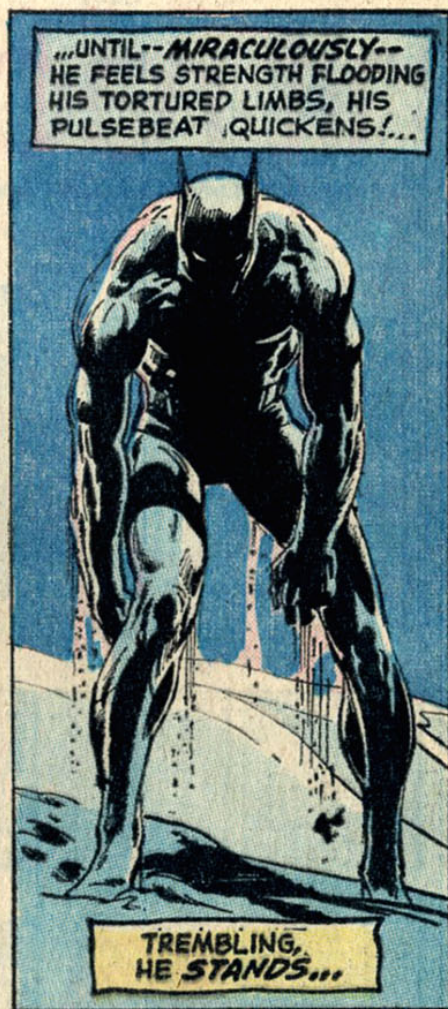
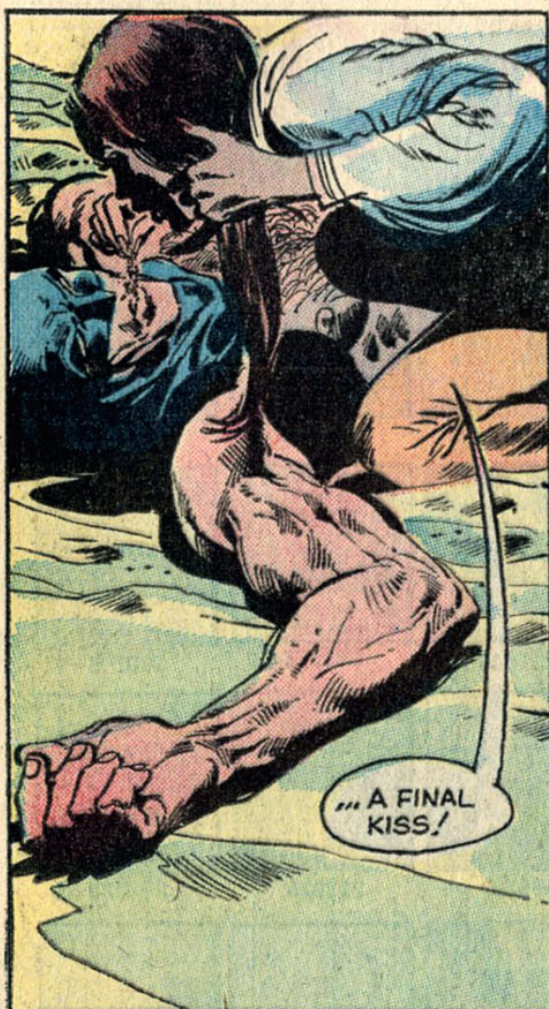
...FOR THE ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON IN YOUR BLOOD!

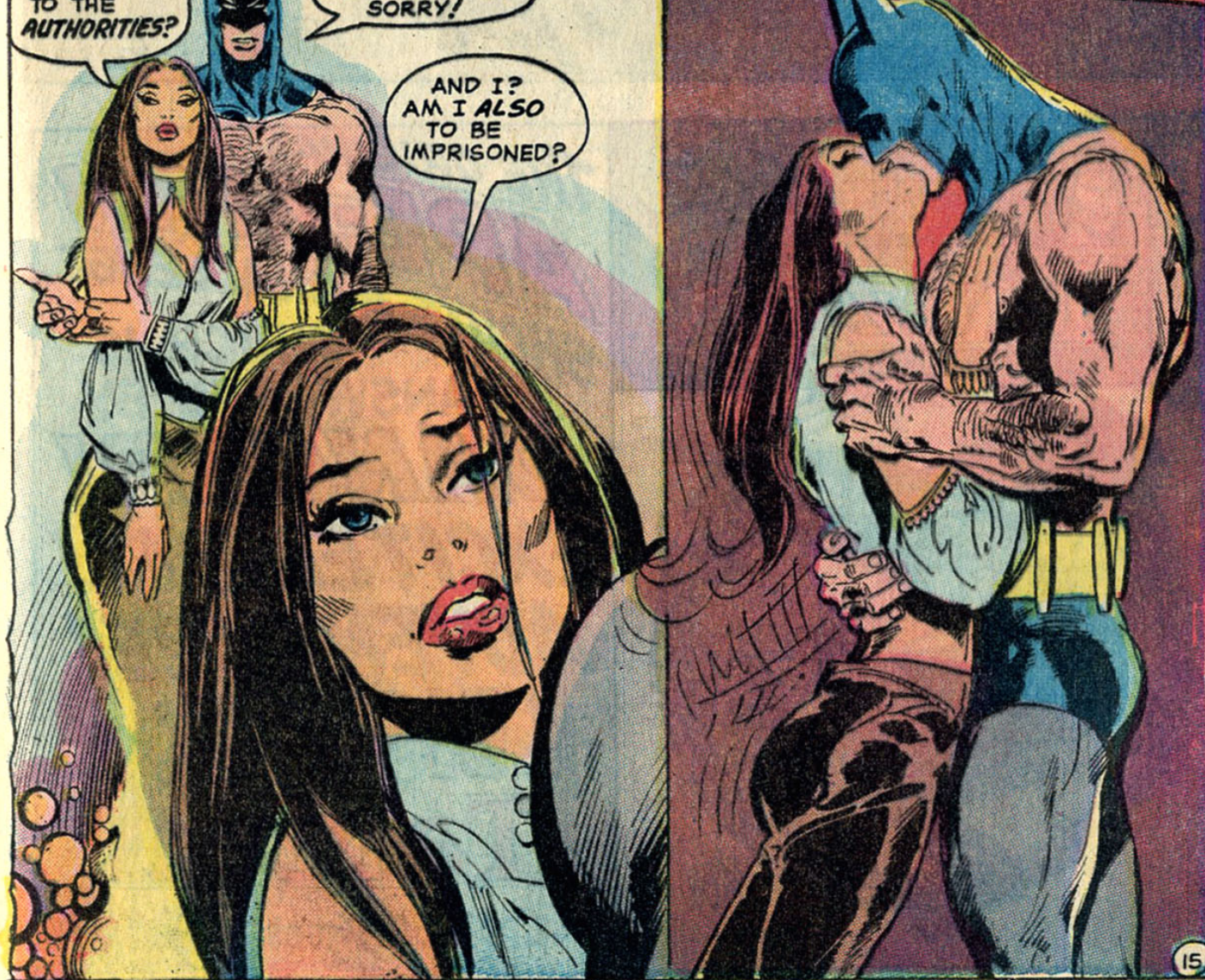
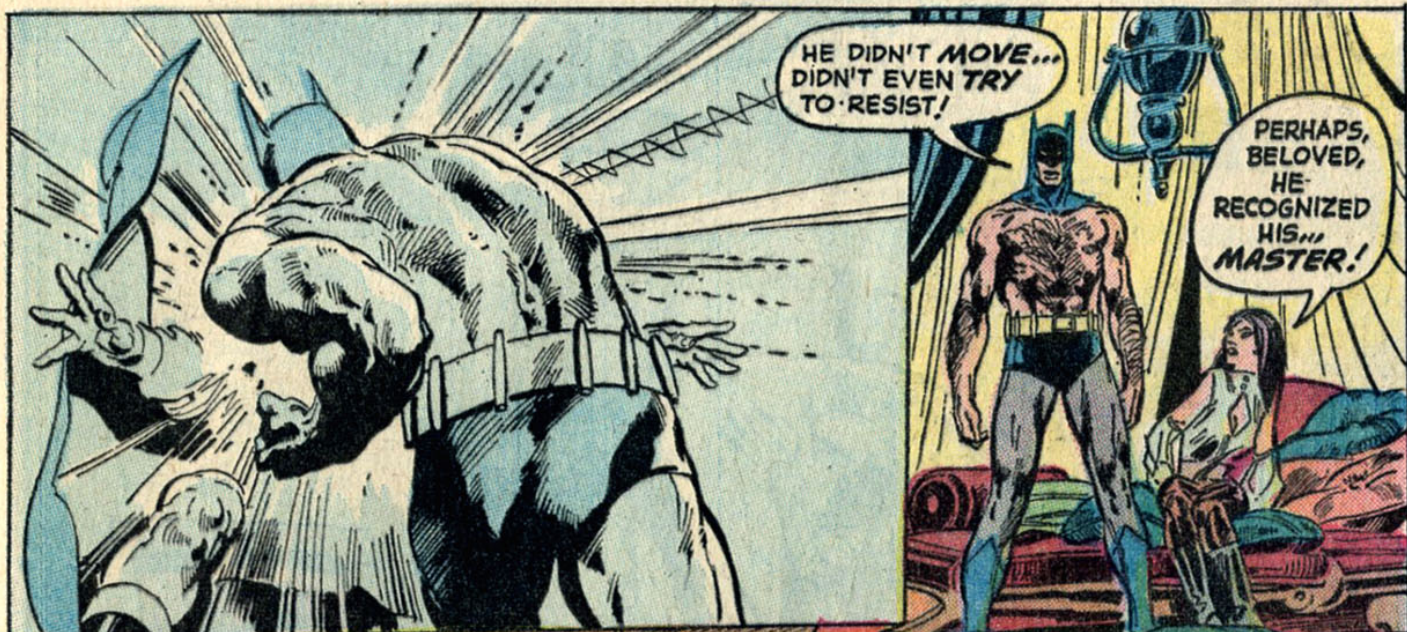
NOR WOULD I GIVE IT! THE DESERT IS THE SHAPER OF MY DESTINY...

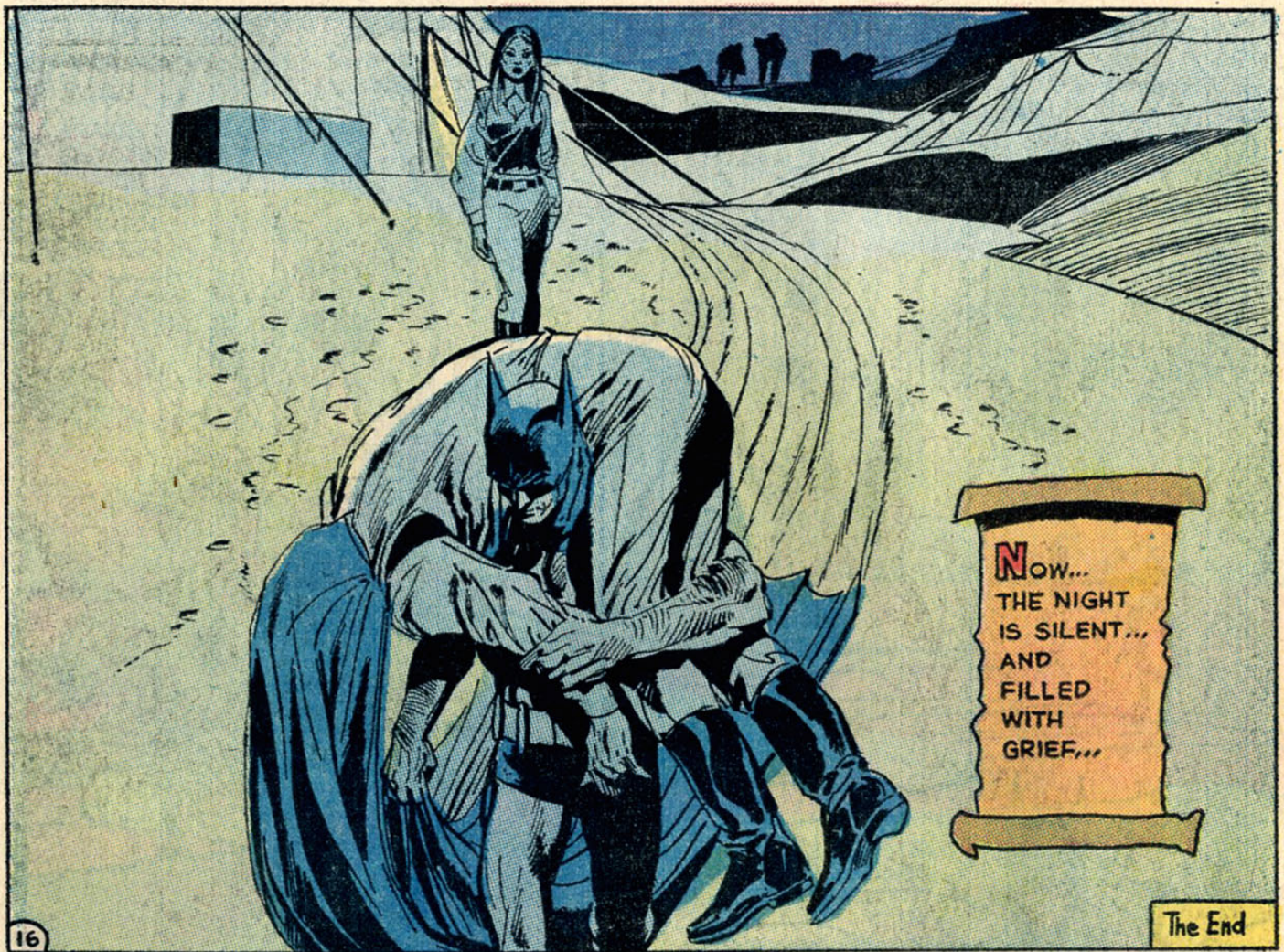
SUDDENLY, THE UNEXPECTED... THE TRAGIC! A SCORPION RISES INTO THE COOLNESS, SEEKING PREY, AND FINDS... THE BATMAN!

COME, DAUGHTER!

A MOMENT, FATHER...







Now...
THE NIGHT
IS SILENT...
AND
FILLED
WITH
GRIEF...

The End

D
DIGEST
C
COMIC
NO. 1

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS
PRESENTS
Tarzan

50c

THE ORIGINAL
APE-MAN
SHOUTS A CHALLENGE...
WHICH IS
ANSWERED BY
DANGER!
EXCITEMENT!
ADVENTURE!
IN THIS **BIG BOOK** OF
Tarzan

160 PAGES 50c

BEST BUY IN COMICS



ALL NEW...COVER TO COVER!

BATMAN SPECTACULAR

3 COMPLETE STORIES!



BATMAN



BATMAN!
FIND MY
KILLER, OR
I'LL RISE FROM
MY GRAVE
AND HANG YOU
BY THE NECK
UNTIL YOU ARE
DEAD!



A PALE, SWIRLING SHROUD COVERS THE CITY AND THE SILENCE SEEMS TO BREATHE! HERE, IN THIS SHATTERED BUILDING, TWO MEN STRUGGLE--ONE BLINDLY OBEYING, THE OTHER STRUGGLING TO PREVENT A MONSTROUS CRIME.

EVEN AS THE BATMAN PITS HIS MUSCLE AGAINST THE GARGANTUAN FOE, THE IMAGE OF A LOVELY WOMAN HOVERS IN HIS MIND'S EYE--THE DAUGHTER OF HIS ENEMY, HIS WIFE... AND HE HEARS WORDS SPOKEN ONLY HOURS EARLIER...

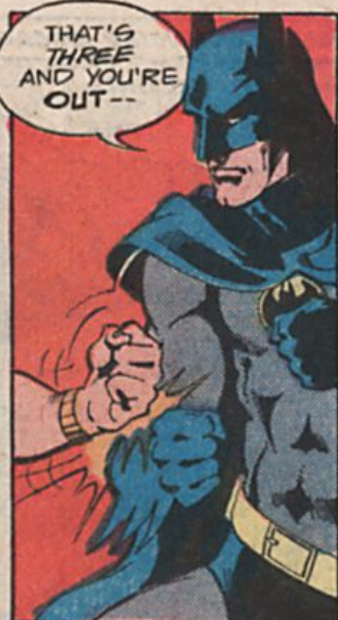
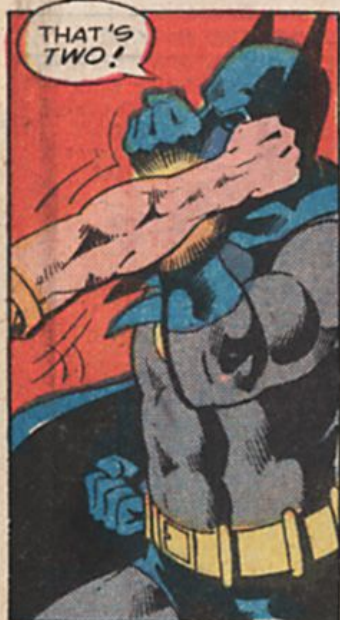
"I NOW
PROMOUNCE
YOU
BATMAN
AND
WIFE!"

WRITER: DENNY O'NEIL
LETTERER: MILT SHAPIRO

PENCILLER: MICHAEL GOLDEN
COLORIST: CORY ADAMS

INKER: DICK GIORDANO
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ







NOT MUCH! YOU CAN BOOK SNAZZY FOR ILLEGAL USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND QUESTION HIM ABOUT A FORTHCOMING ROBBERY!

STAY OFF MY BEAT, BATMAN! US PROFESSIONALS KEEP THE PEACE HERE!



GOSH... THE GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM! WOULD YOU SIGN MY TICKET BOOK?

YOU WANT AN AMATEUR'S AUTOGRAPH? YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO A POLICE CAREER, ROOKIE! YOUR ATTITUDE SMELLS!



SORRY, SARGE! IT'S JUST THAT HE'S BEEN MY IDOL FOR YEARS AND HE'S THE GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTER WHO EVER LIVED AND-

QUIET! JUST PUT THE CUFFS ON THIS MONKEY!

THUS, THE BATMAN'S QUESTION GOES UNANSWERED--AND SO, A TRAGEDY BEGINS TO FORM...



EXACTLY A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER, AT THE RECONSTRUCTED BATCAVE UNDER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...

ALFRED--?

HE'S NOT AROUND... WASN'T UP IN THE PENTHOUSE, EITHER!

NOT LIKE HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW!

MY MUSCLES FEEL LIKE A SAILOR'S MANUAL OF KNOTS--



--AND THAT LITTLE WORKOUT WITH SNAZZY--

--DIDN'T DO ANYTHING--



--TO UNKINK ME!



EVEN A BATMAN--

--NEEDS A BIT OF SWEAT ONCE IN A WHILE!



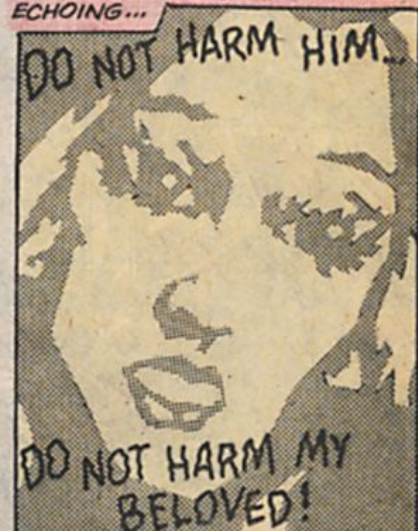
SUDDENLY, THE STRENGTH DRAINS
FROM HIS LIMBS AND HIS BREATH
IS LIKE A LUMP IN HIS CHEST...



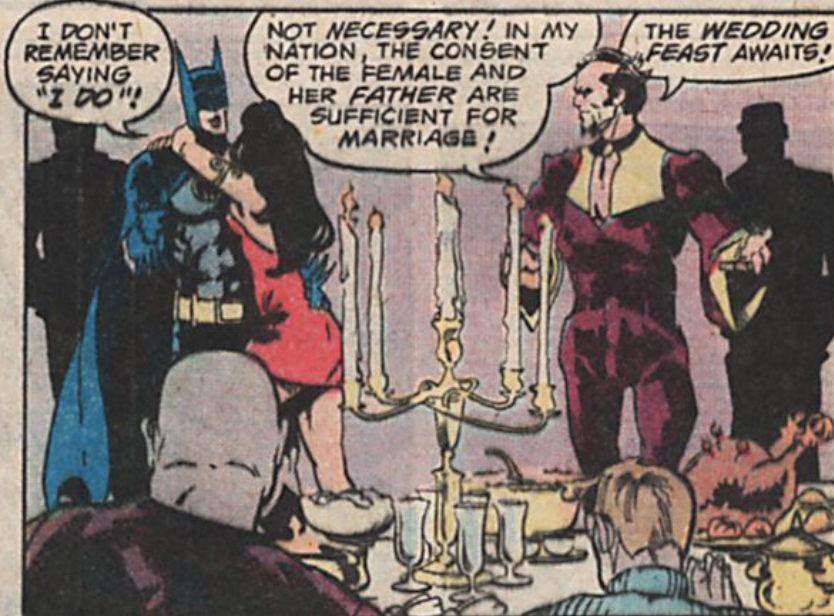
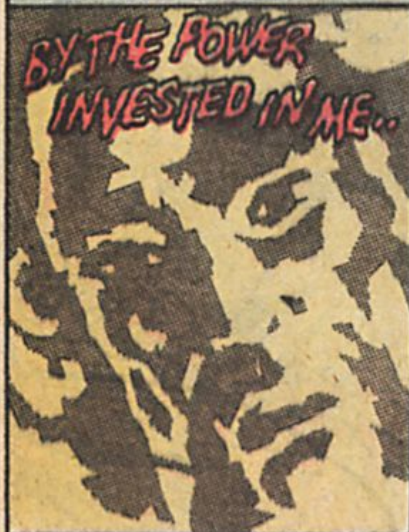
--AND TRIES TO DEFEND HIM-
SELF... IN VAIN!



AS HE PLUNGES INTO A CHASM
OF DARKNESS, HE HEARS A
FAMILIAR VOICE, DISTANT AND
ECHOING...



AND ANOTHER VOICE, FIRM AND
DIGNIFIED AS A MOUNTAIN...



THE FAMOUS MARKE-
WITCH WHO VANISHED
FROM THE MOSCOW
INSTITUTE? THE
RUSSIAN GOVERN-
MENT WAS QUITE
UPSET!

I COULD NOT
REFUSE RA'S AL-
GHUL'S OFFER!

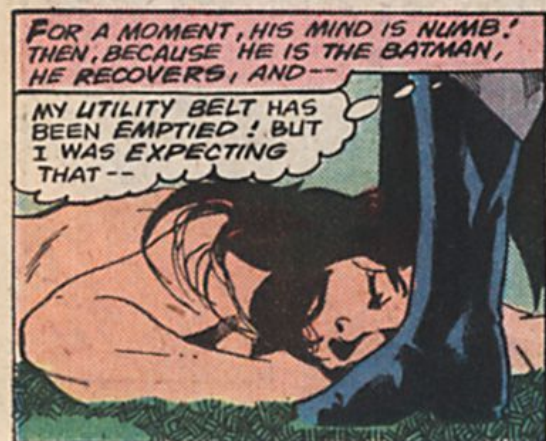
HAVE YOU NOTHING
TO SAY TO ME,
BELOVED
HUSBAND?

FRANKLY, I'M STUNNED!
TO HAVE MY GREATEST
ENEMY AS A FATHER-
IN-LAW AND YOU AS
MY BRIDE-- AFTER
ALL THE TIMES
WE'VE FOUGHT--

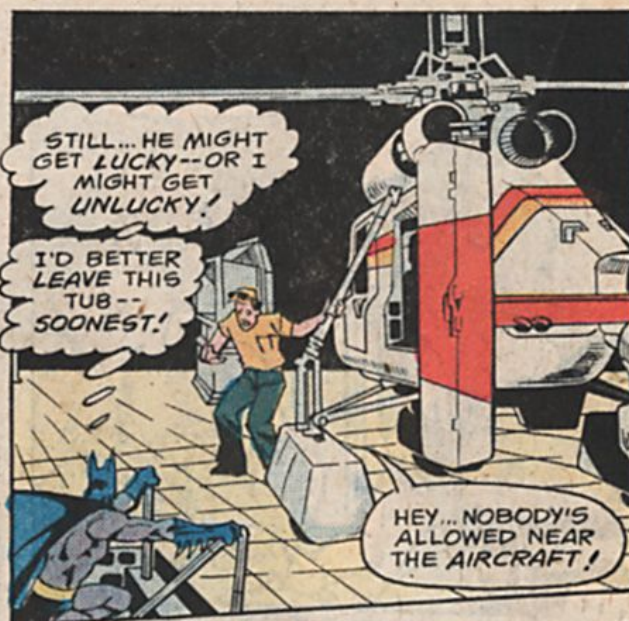
--IT TAKES THE
WIND OUT OF MY
SAILS!

BUT YOU ARE
LOVELY--AND APART
OF ME HAS ALWAYS
HOPED WE COULD
BE... FRIENDLY!









IF I HAD THE FAINTEST IDEA WHERE ON EARTH I AM, I'D BE IN FAIR SHAPE!

IN THE ATLANTIC, I'D GUESS...SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF CANADA...



UH-OH...THE ENGINE'S STALLING! MUST'VE BEEN HIT BY ONE OF LURK'S SLUGS!

I DON'T DARE USE THE RADIO! I'D ONLY BRING RÅ'S!



I'LL SET HER DOWN...AND HOPE SHE STAYS AFLOAT TILL HELP ARRIVES!

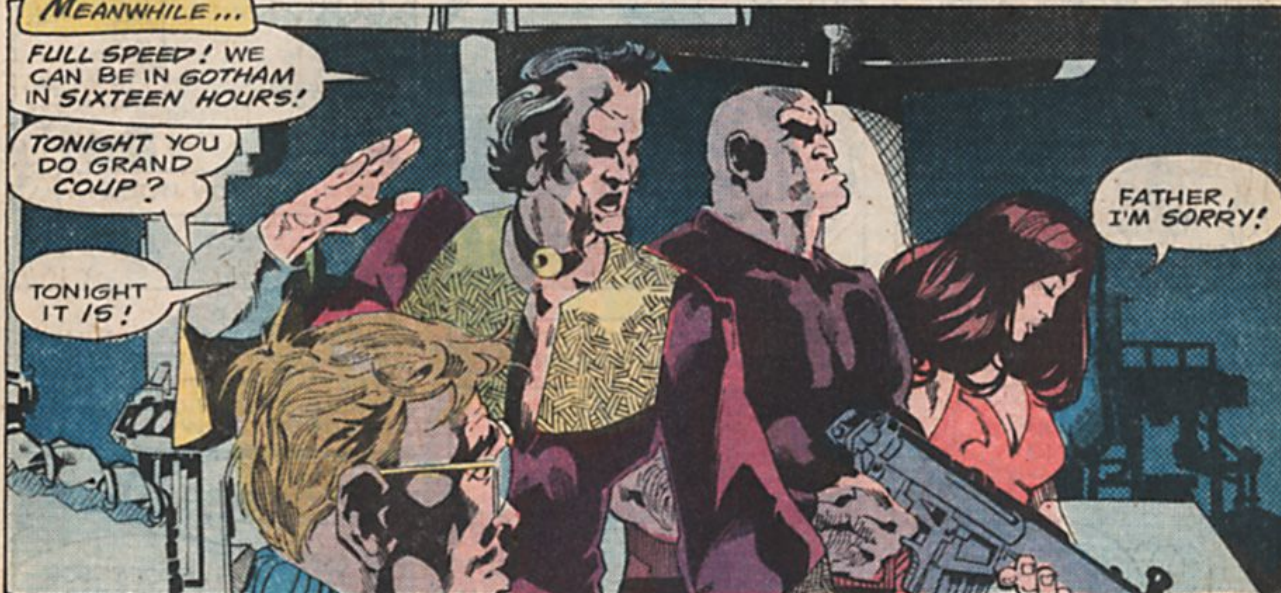
MEANWHILE...

FULL SPEED! WE CAN BE IN GOTHAM IN SIXTEEN HOURS!

TONIGHT YOU DO GRAND COUP?

TONIGHT IT IS!

FATHER, I'M SORRY!



DO NOT BE! I AGREED TO THE WEDDING AS MUCH FOR MY SAKE AS FOR YOURS!



I HOPED TO USE YOU TO GAIN AN EDGE ON THE DETECTIVE--OR AT LEAST LESSEN HIS HUNTER'S INSTINCTS!



I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT IS HOPELESS! HE IS AS OBSESSED AS I AM!

TRULY A MAGNIFICENT FOE! I SHALL DESTROY HIM WITH THE GREATEST REGRET!



LAST NIGHT WAS HOT NOW
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE CITY
WRITHES UNDER A BLANKET
OF RELENTLESS HEAT...



SURE IS FOGGY!
REAL ODD
FOR JULY!

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
THAT...

...ABOUT
ANYTHING?



BY SEVEN, THE STREETS ARE
TOTALLY FILLED WITH
SWIRLING MISTS... THE
PEOPLE MOVE LIKE SLEEP-
WALKING SHADOWS...



TRAFFIC
SLOWS TO
A CREEP--

AND AT STATION WDON--

--DISC JOCKEY BARRY DARK
MUMBLES...

LISSEN, CATS AND
CHICKS, UNCLE BARRY'S
NOT UP TO YAKING--

SAVE YOUR
BREATH! THE
INSTRUMENTS
SHOW OUR
SIGNAL'S NOT
BROADCASTING!

WE'RE NOT
RECEIVING,
EITHER!



AND IN THE COCKPIT OF A
DC-10, HIGH OVERHEAD...



THE ENTIRE
AREA IS JAMMED!
RADIO, RADAR, TV--
NOTHING'S GETTING
IN OR OUT!

DIVERT TO
PHILADELPHIA!

AT EIGHT, THE CITY IS A VAST
GRAVEYARD, DEVOID OF
ACTIVITY EXCEPT ON 47TH
STREET, KNOWN AS
DIAMONDS' ROW...

YOUR PLAN WORKS
EXCELLENTLY!

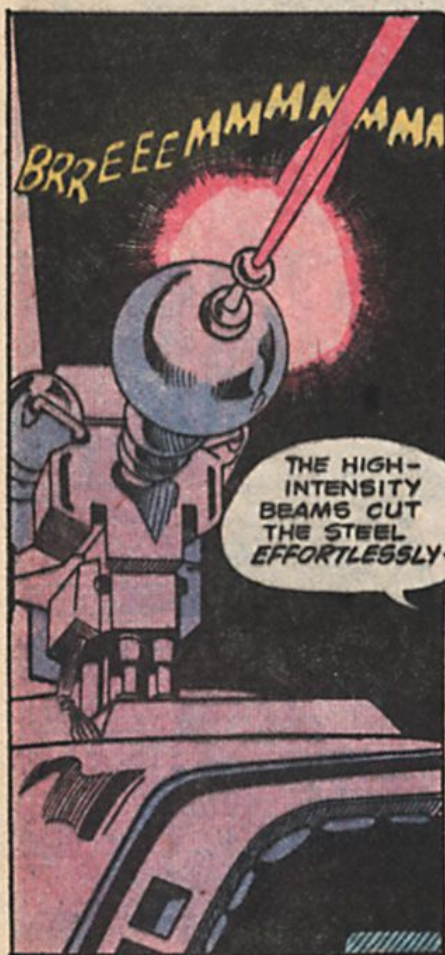
YES, PROFESSOR
MARKEWITCH--
THE IONIZED GAS
FROM THE LIGHT-
GLOBES I INSTALLED
ACCOMPLISHES TWO
THINGS--





PONDEROUSLY, THE MAMMOTH WRECKING BALL SWINGS AND WITH TWO TONS OF MOMENTUM SMASHES--





THE HIGH-INTENSITY BEAMS CUT THE STEEL EFFORTLESSLY--



--AND BEHOLD, PROFESSOR! THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF QUALITY DIAMONDS IN THE WORLD!

MY WORK IS ADVANCED BY YEARS! I AM SO GRATEFUL--

DO NOT BE! YOUR GOALS ARE MINE!

LEADER!



SOMEONE IS MOVING THE CRANE--



--HEADING STRAIGHT AT US--



THE BATMAN--!!



THESE TYPES MAY NOT FIGHT WELL-- BUT THEY WILL FIGHT!

AS SCARED AS THEY ARE OF ME, THEY'RE MORE SCARED OF RA'S!



I HIT BATMAN?

NO! HELP LOAD THE DIAMONDS!

THESE GUYS WOULDN'T GIVE A GOLDEN GLOVER ANY REAL TROUBLE--



-- BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM!

RA'S AND CREW ARE READY TO RUN-- WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF STONES!

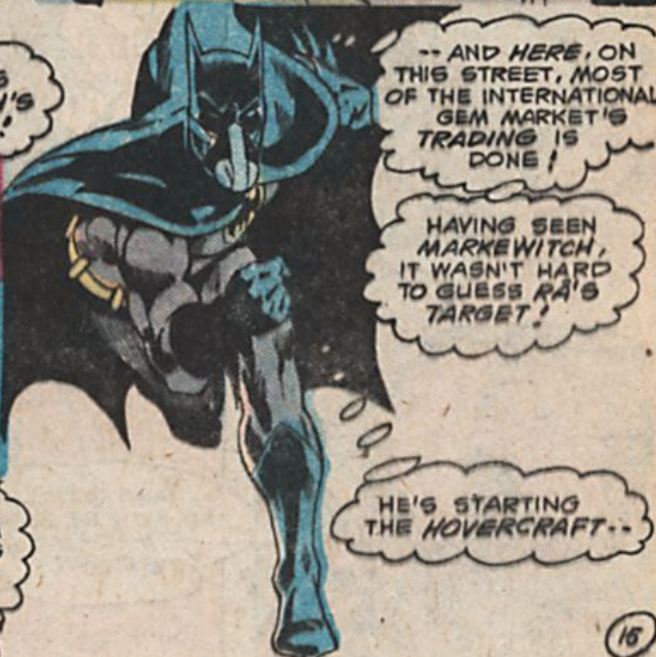
NOT THAT HE'S AFTER MONEY-- HE'S ALREADY RICHER THAN FORT KNOX!

AACK



I FIGURE HE NEEDS THE ROCKS FOR MARKEWITCH'S EXPERIMENTS!

THE PROFESSOR WAS DEVELOPING A WAY OF CONVERTING DIAMONDS TO PURE ENERGY WHEN HE DISAPPEARED--

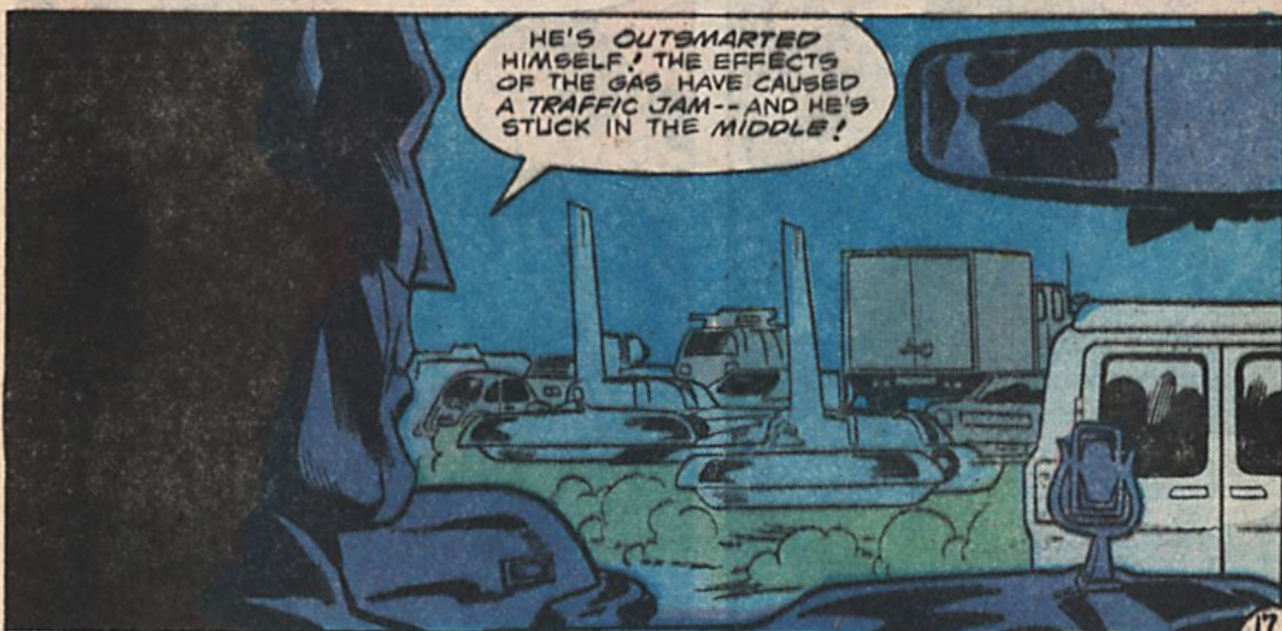
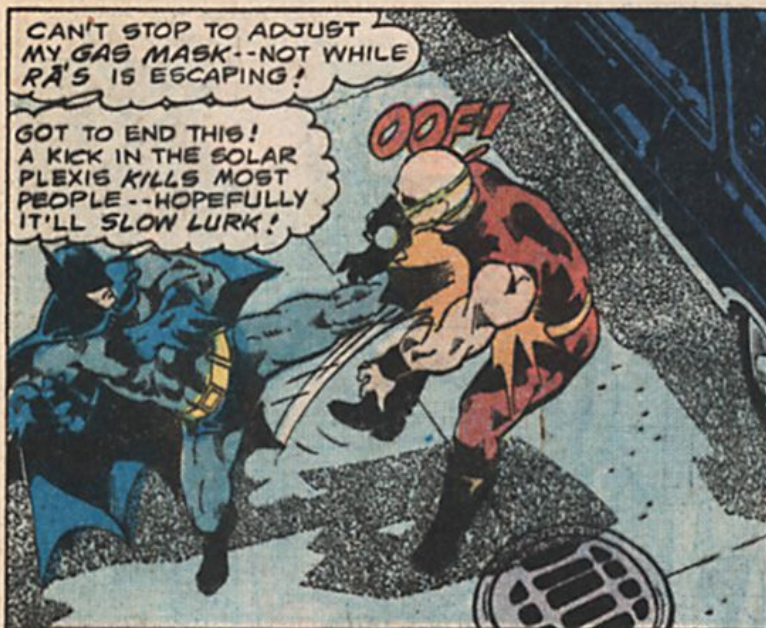


-- AND HERE, ON THIS STREET, MOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEM MARKET'S TRADING IS DONE!

HAVING SEEN MARKEWITCH, IT WASN'T HARD TO GUESS RA'S TARGET!

HE'S STARTING THE HOVERCRAFT--







NO...I'M OUTSMARTED!
THE TRAFFIC JAM WAS
PART OF HIS PLAN--!

THE HOVERCRAFTS ARE
GOING ABOVE IT...RIDING
ON AN AIR CUSHION!



BY ELEVEN, A STRONG BREEZE SWEEPS FROM THE OCEAN,
DISSIPATING THE FUMES, AND THE MOON REAPPEARS IN
THE INKY SKY...

AT A PIER
SOUTH OF
GOTHAM--

HURRY!



SOON, THE POLICE
WILL RECOVER! WE
MUST HAVE THE
SUBMARINE LOADED
AND BE UNDER WAY
BEFORE THEY
ORGANIZE!

WE CAN BE AT
THE TANKER BY
SUNRISE...

YOU'LL BE
NOWHERE--



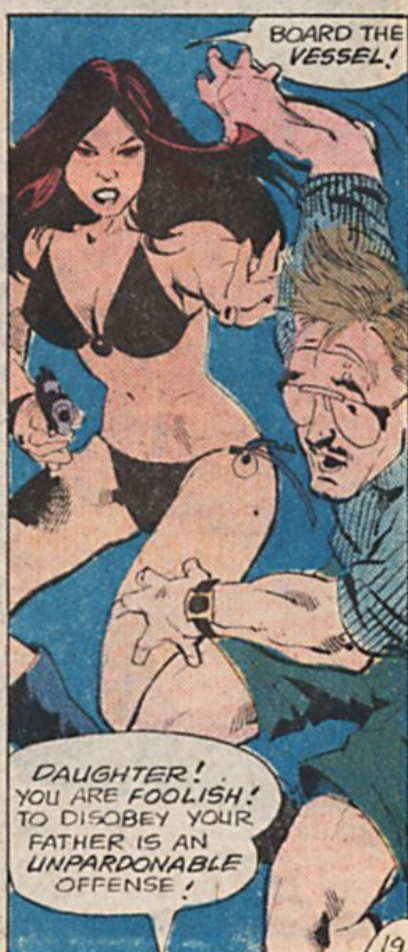
THE DETECTIVE--!?
HOW--

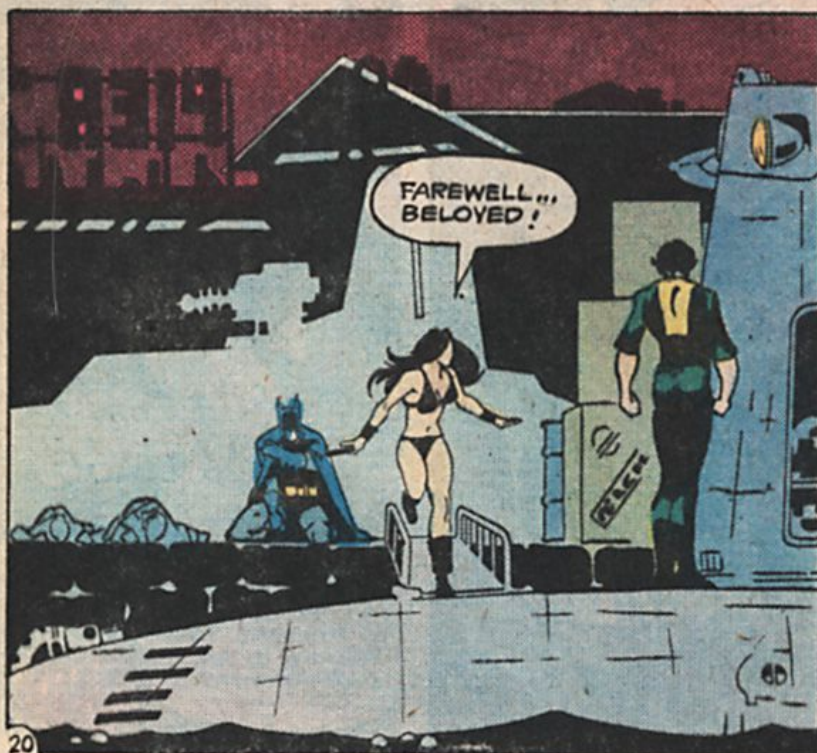
DON'T ASK HOW I KNEW
WHERE YOU WERE! YOU
COULDN'T CHANCE TRYING
TO ESCAPE BY AIR AND
YOU WERE HEADING
THIS WAY--

--A WAITING SUB
WAS ONLY LOGICAL!

ACHK!

UNGH!





20



68
PAGES

NO
ADS
FROM
COVER
TO
COVER!



5 ALL-NEW THRILLERS!

FEATURING
THE ENTIRE **BATMAN FAMILY!**



BATMAN STARRING IN
DETECTIVE
COMICS TM

WHOSE
DEATH
CAUSES
BATMAN
TO SWEAR
*"THE VENGEANCE
VOW"?*



plus:

BATGIRL
ROBIN
and
MAN-BAT
IN THEIR
OWN
FULL-LENGTH
FEATURES!



AND A
BONUS
STORY!

*THE DEMON'S
LAST
BATTLE!*



DICK GIORDANO



C-998

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **BRUCE WAYNE** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

BAT MAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

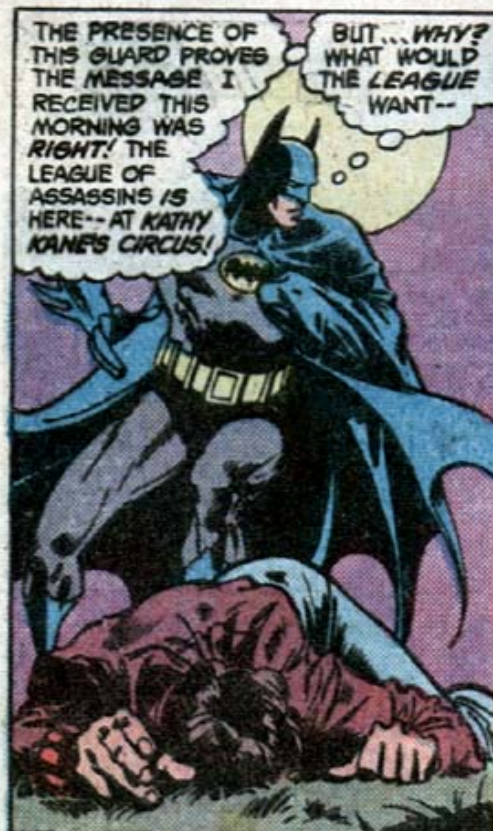
IT IS NOT QUIET ON THESE CIRCUS GROUNDS... THIS SOUTHWESTERN NIGHT ON THE EDGE OF WINTER! NO, THERE IS THE DISTANT HOWL OF PRAIRIE ANIMALS, THE FAINT RATTLE OF TENT RIGGINGS, THE CONSTANT WHISPER OF THE WINDS...

BUT THE BATMAN MAKES NO SOUND AS HE GLIDES TO HIS QUARRY AND STRIKES, INSTANTLY PLUNGING THE MAN INTO A SENSELESS SLEEP...

THUS, IT BEGINS... A STRUGGLE AGAINST THE MOST MERCILESS KILLERS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN--A BATTLE WHERE FOE BECOMES FRIEND AND DEATH IS A CONSTANT COMPANION...



STORY - DENNY O'NEIL • ART - DON NEWTON & DAN ADKINS • LETTERER - BEN ODA
COLORIST - ADRIENNE ROY • EDITOR - PAUL LEVITZ
SPECIAL THANKS TO SENSEI RICHARD HILL FOR MARTIAL ARTS ADVICE.



THE PRESENCE OF THIS GUARD PROVES THE MESSAGE I RECEIVED THIS MORNING WAS **RIGHT!** THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS IS HERE-- AT KATHY KANE'S CIRCUS!

BUT... WHY? WHAT WOULD THE LEAGUE WANT--



--WITH THE PERSON WHO ONCE CALLED HERSELF THE **BATWOMAN?**



AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE MAIN TENT, KATHY KANE IS ASKING MUCH THE SAME QUESTION...

YOU GUYS DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE COME TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE **SHOW!** SO WHAT IS IT--?



HEY, HANDS OFF THE **MERCHANDISE,** CHUM --

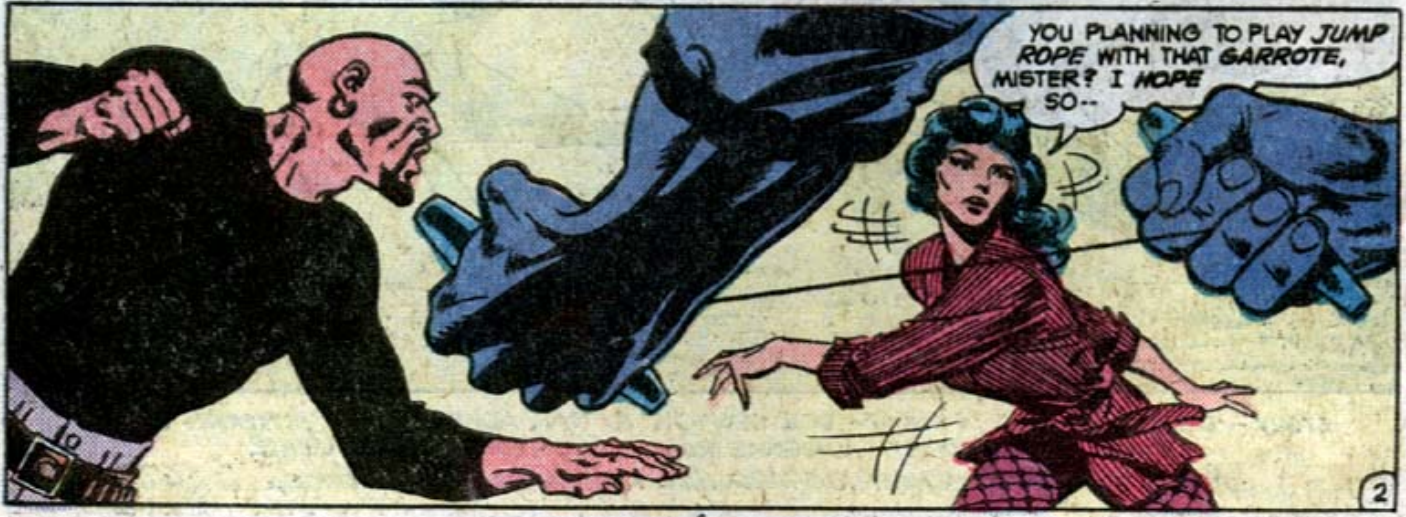


--THE PRICE OF A **TICKET--**



FHOMP

--DOESN'T GIVE YOU **PAWING PRIVILEGES!**



YOU PLANNING TO PLAY **JUMP ROPE** WITH THAT **GARROTE,** MISTER? I **HOPE** SO--





WHO'S THIS BRIGHT EYES?

I AM CALLED BEN TUR... THE **BRONZE TIGER**!

WE HAVE COME FOR THE **WOMAN**!

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME FIRST!

WITH THE LIGHTNING GRACE OF A JUNGLE CAT, THE MASKED FIGURE FEINTS A BLOW AT THE BATMAN'S HEAD--



-- ONLY TO HAVE IT INSTANTLY **BLOCKED!**



THEN... THE MOMENT THAT CHANGES A SCORE OF LIVES--

-- A SUDDEN STUNNING KICK--!

THOOD



DARKNESS CLOUDS HIS VISION... HIS TEMPLES POUND... HE STRUGGLES TO REMAIN **STANDING**--

--AND FAILS...



AS AN AGONY-FILLED BLACKNESS CLAIMS HIM, HE SEES THE RISE AND FALL OF **SHINING STEEL**--



AND AS IF FROM A GREAT DISTANCE HE HEARS KATHY'S **CRY...**

IT IS PROBABLY ONLY *MINUTES* BEFORE HE RECOVERS! HIS TRAINED EYE IMMEDIATELY READS THE MEANING OF THE DARK STAINS IN THE DUST AND, WITH A SICK DREAD, HE FOLLOWS THEIR TRAIL...



...KNOWING WHAT HE WILL FIND--

KATHY!



SHE DIED CLUTCHING HER COSTUME... THE CLOTHES SHE ONCE WORE AS BATWOMAN!



WHY?

WE WILL NEVER KNOW, DETECTIVE--!



RA'S! RAS AL GHUL!



BEFORE THE ECHO OF HIS GRIM WORDS
HAS FADED, THE BATMAN IS GONE!
THERE IS A SILKEN RUSTLE IN THE
SHADOWS, AND --

YOU MAY STEP
FORTH, DAUGHTER!

MAGNIFICENT,
ISN'T HE--THIS
BATMAN!

WHY,
FATHER--

--WHY ARE
YOU USING
HIM THUS?

I NEED COMPLETE
CONTROL OF THE
LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS
-- A THING THE SENSEI
DENIES ME!

SINCE THE SENSEI
HAS RECRUITED THE
FORMIDABLE BRONZE
TIGER, MY CAUSE IS HOPELESS--

--UNLESS THE
DETECTIVE CAN
CRUSH THE SENSEI
AND HIS FOLLOWERS!

I REALIZE THE
THOUGHT OF HIM
IN PERIL
CAUSES YOU
PAIN, TALIA,
AND I AM
SORRY! YOU
LOVE HIM YET!

ALWAYS, FATHER...
ALWAYS!

LATE THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON,
IN THE BATCAVE...

I HAVE THE INFORMATION
ON THE AUTOMOBILE YOU
REQUESTED, MASTER BRUCE!

RELIABLE AS
ALWAYS,
ALFRED!

MAY I
ASK WHAT
YOU ARE
ADDING TO
YOUR
UTILITY
BELT?

ANTIDOTES
TO EVERY
POISON THE
LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS
HAS EVER BEEN
KNOWN TO
USE!





I RESPECTFULLY REFUSE!

EXCELLENT!
NOW KILL THEM!



HE IS THE FINEST
MARTIAL ARTIST
I HAVE EVER
SEEN!

YET HE
DISOBEYS,
SENSEI?

YES! HE WAS TRAINED AT THE
TENSUODAIS, WHERE THE
FIGHTING ARTS ARE USED AS
A WAY TO FULFILLMENT--



--NOT AS WE USE THEM...
TO CREATE AND INFLICT
EXQUISITE DEATH!

HE IS DEEPLY
CONDITIONED
NOT TO TAKE LIFE,
AND ALTHOUGH HIS
MEMORY IS GONE--

--HIS CONDITIONING
PERSISTS... THAT
AND HIS TRULY
SUPERB SKILL!



HOWEVER, HAVE NO FEAR!
I SHALL TRIUMPH! IN THE
FINAL RECKONING, HE WILL
BE MY CREATURE--TOTALLY!

BODY AND SOUL,
HE WILL BE MINE!



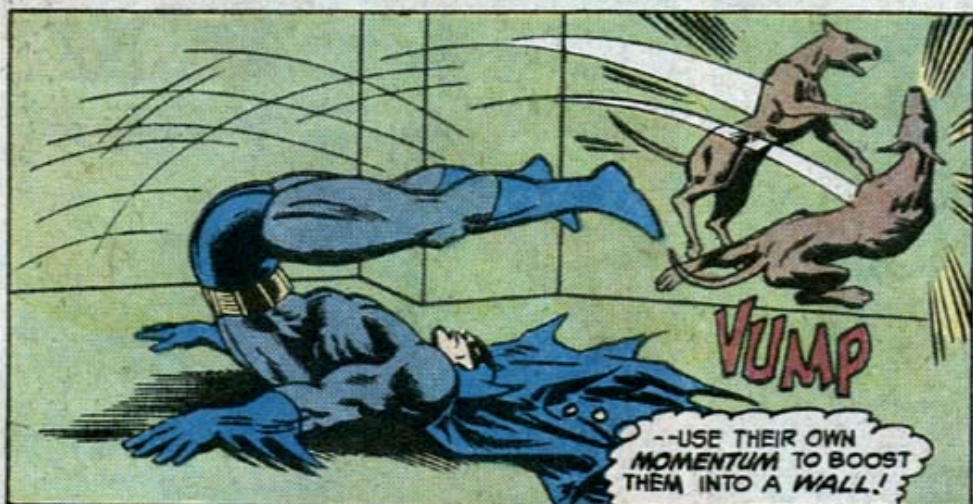
IN THE EVENT THAT ANYONE HAS BEEN WONDERING WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BEN TURNER, PARTNER AND FRIEND OF RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER...NOW YOU KNOW!

9



--AND EMERGE A SCANT
DOZEN YARDS FROM THE
CAPED CRUSADER...



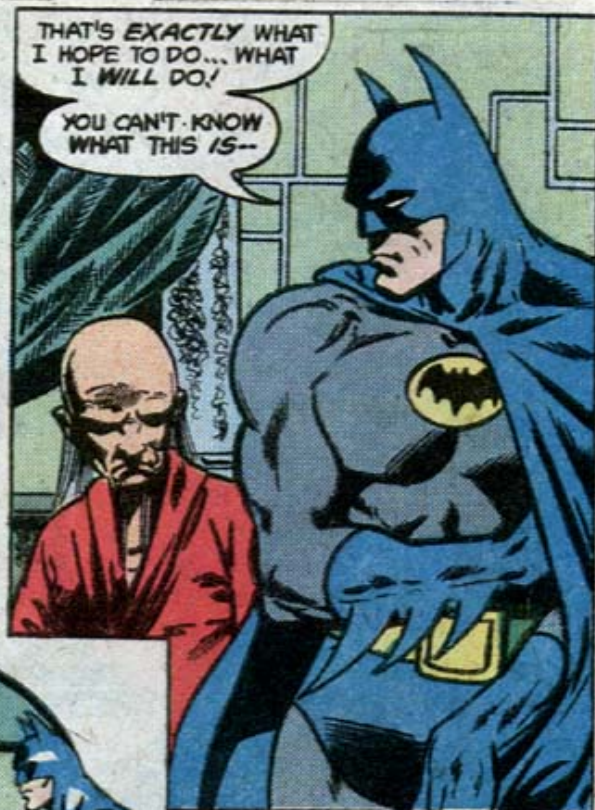


IN THE CHAMBER BELOW...











A TEST... OF
TRAINING, SKILL
AND IMMENSE
DETERMINATION--



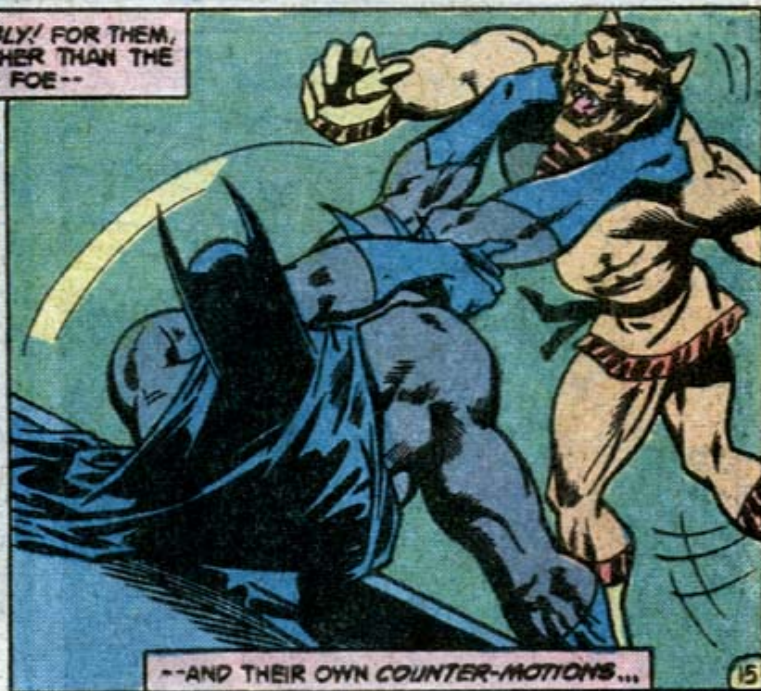
--OF WIT AND REFLEX
AND STRENGTH--



THESE MEN ARE
NO LONGER
THINKING-- NOR
EVEN FEELING! THEY
ARE REACTING--

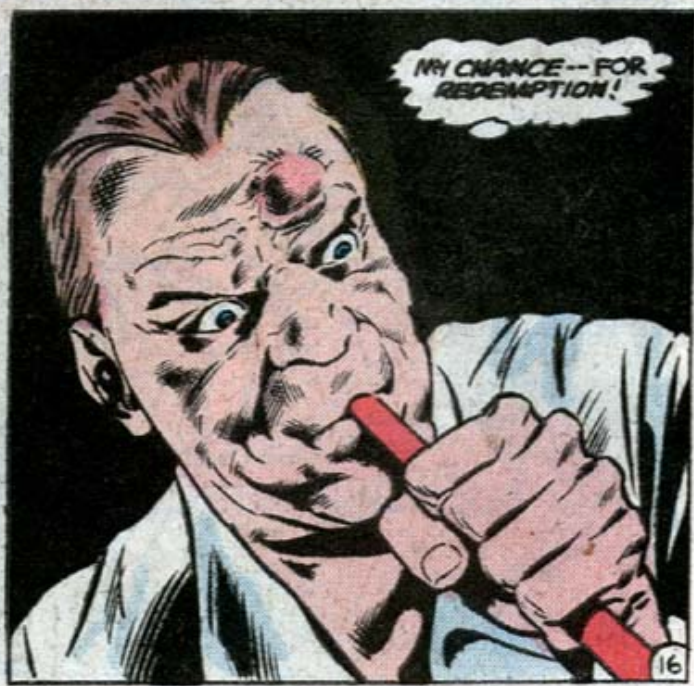
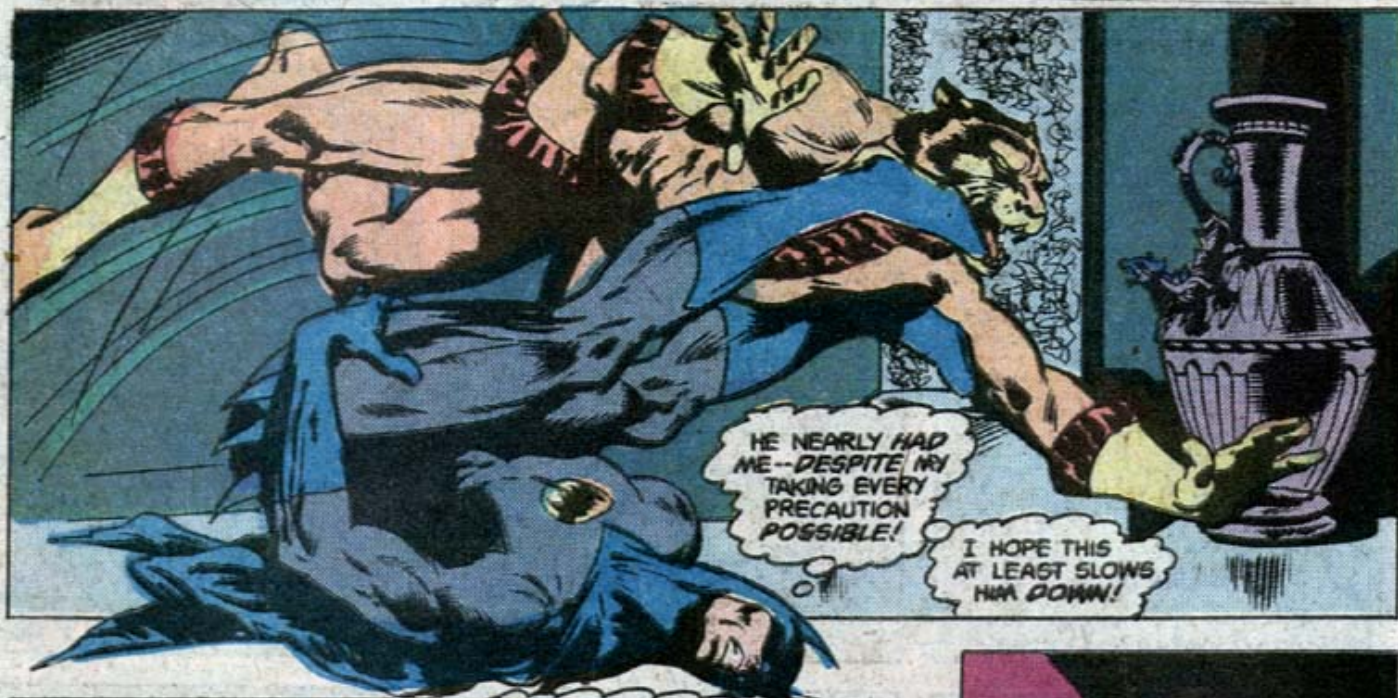


--REACTING SUPERBLY! FOR THEM,
NOTHING EXISTS OTHER THAN THE
MOTIONS OF THE FOE--



--AND THEIR OWN COUNTER-MOTIONS...

15



LIKE A SMALL, LETHAL INSECT THE
TINY MISSILE STREAKS TO ITS TARGET--

A DART! LOADED WITH
TOXIN, NO DOUBT!



GOT TO GET THE
ANTIDOTE INTO ME!

IS THIS YOUR
IDEA OF A FAIR
FIGHT, TIGER?
HAVING A CONFEDERATE
STRIKE AT ME FROM THE
SIDELINES?

I HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH
IT, MAN!



THEN IT
WAS YOUR
IDEA,
SENSEI!

NO! I WAS ENJOYING
THE CONTEST! WHAT
IS MORE, HE WHO DID
IT HAS INCURRED
MY ANGER--



AND HE SHALL
BE PUNISHED--



--IMMEDIATELY!

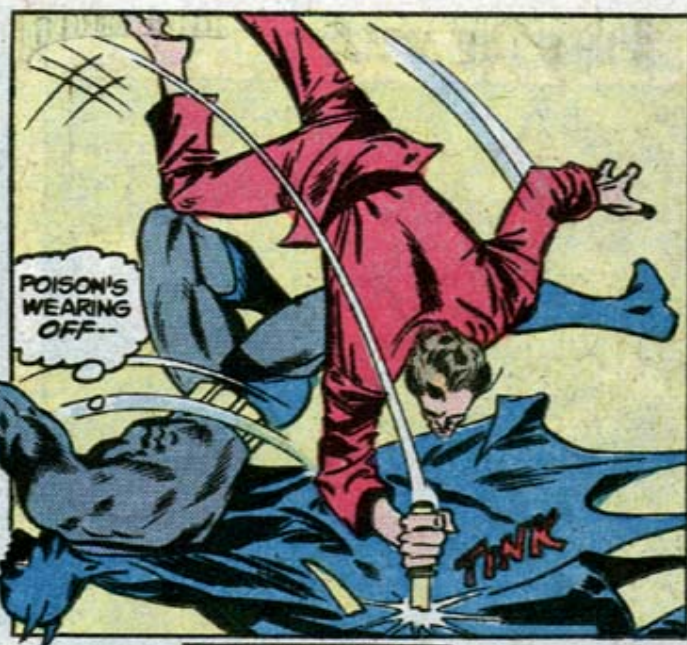


THERE IS NO
POINT IN FURTHER
DELAY!

TAKE THE BATMAN,
MY STUDENTS--AND
DISPOSE OF HIM!







BY SHEER INSTINCT, THE BATMAN STRUGGLES TO WHERE HE LAST GLIMPSED THE BRONZE TIGER--



--BUT...

I SENSE HE'S GONE!



THEN, INEXPLICABLY--

THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON--! THOSE TWO KILLERS ARE THE ONES WHO MURDERED KATHY! BUT WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE!

BLOODSTAINS ON THE FLOOR--



--LEADING OUTSIDE--



NOBODY HERE! NO SIGN OF THE SENSEI OR THE TIGER!

WHAT'S THAT?



THE TIGER'S MASK-- AND KATHY'S COWL!

MAYBE THIS MEANS KATHY'S BEEN AVENGED--



--AND MAYBE NOT...



THIS WAS THE BEGINNING... WATCH FOR THE NEXT SAGA IN... *The WAR of the ASSASSINS!*

...SOON!

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A
NOVEL-
LENGTH
**ROBIN-
BATGIRL**
STORY!

WITH YOUR
MEMORY
DESTROYED,
MY SECRET'S
SAFE!

**TWO
BATMAN
NOVELETES!**

plus

**COMMISSIONER
GORDON
IN HIS
FIRST
SOLO STORY!**

and

**THE ATOM
IN A
MINI-EPIC!**



C-283

ANDRU F
GIORDANO

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **BRUCE WAYNE** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD **AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...**

BAT MAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

IT IS NEAR MIDNIGHT AND THE CORRIDORS OF **GOTHAM CENTRAL HOSPITAL** ARE HUSHED... THE SILENCE OF THE GRIEVING, THE FEARFUL, BROKEN ONLY BY AN OCCASIONAL MOAN AND A HARSH WHISPER--

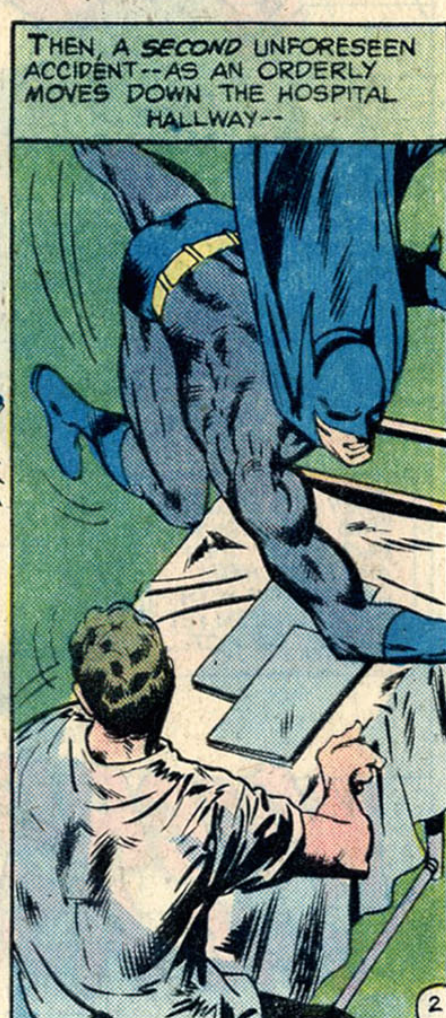
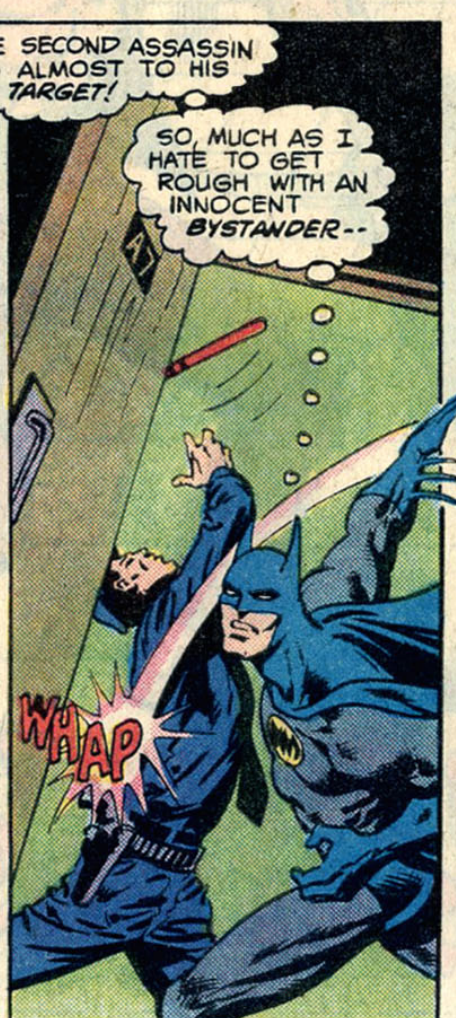
THAT IS HIS ROOM?

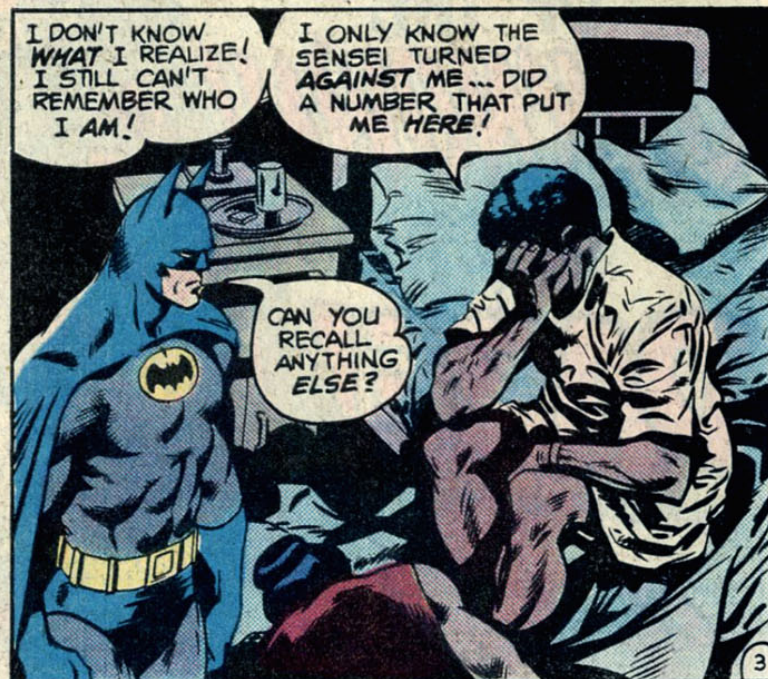
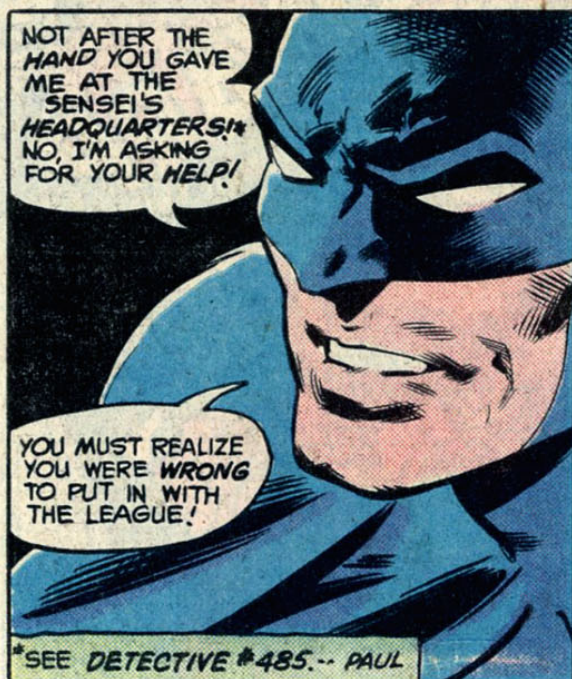
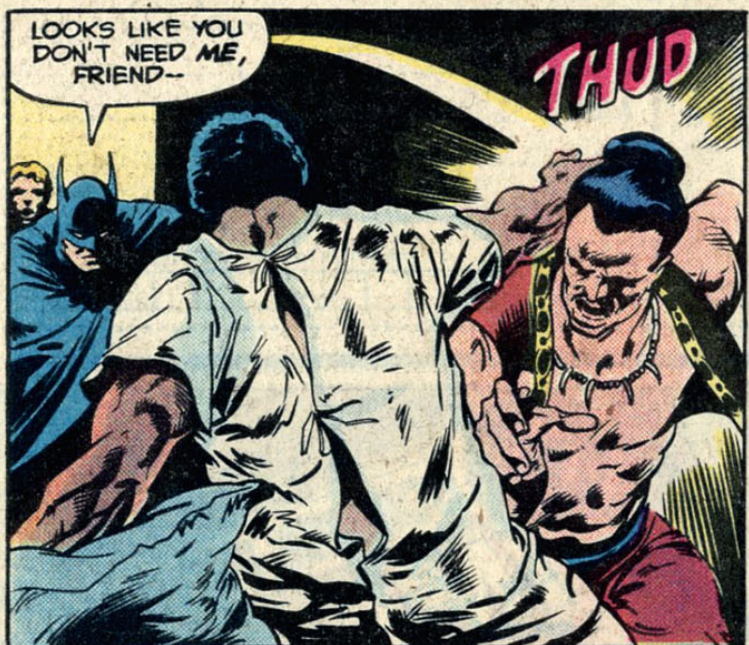
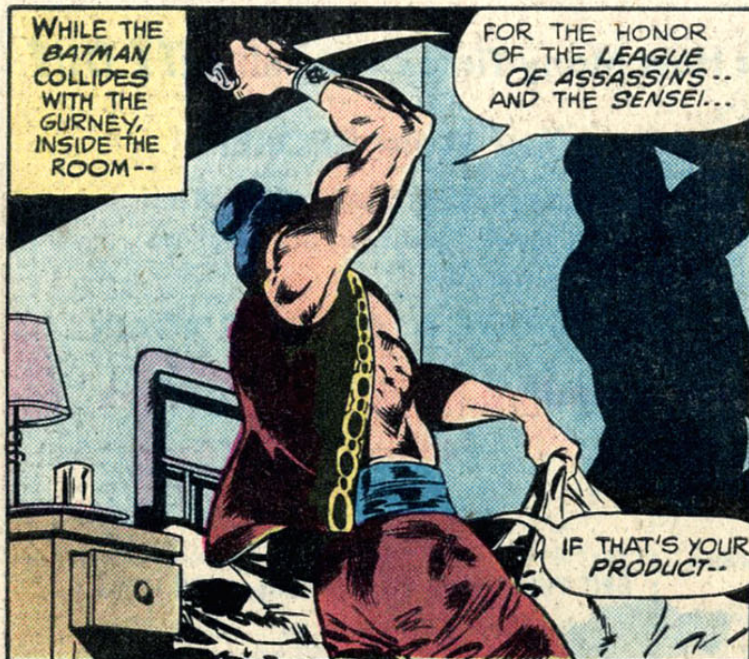
YES! LET US SEND HIM TO HIS ANCESTORS!

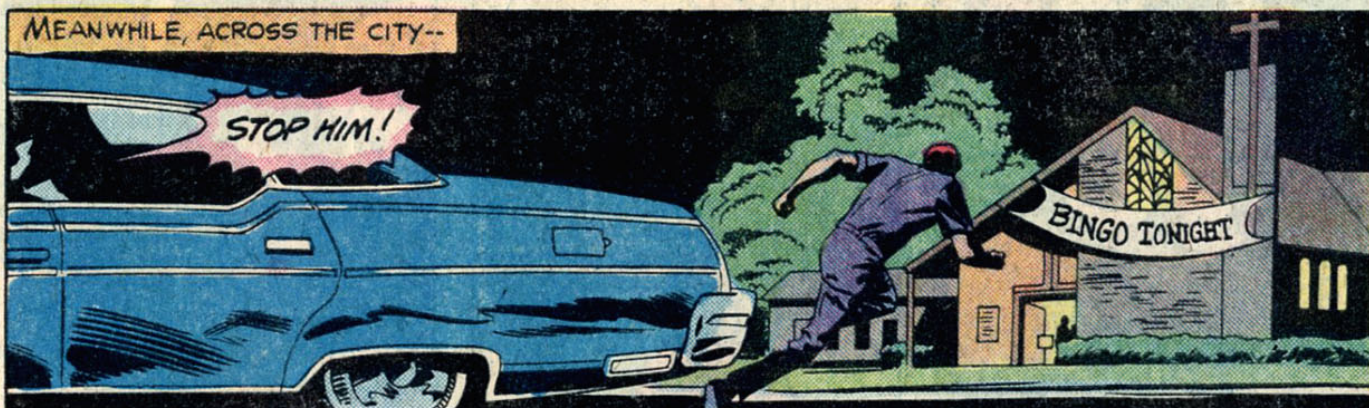
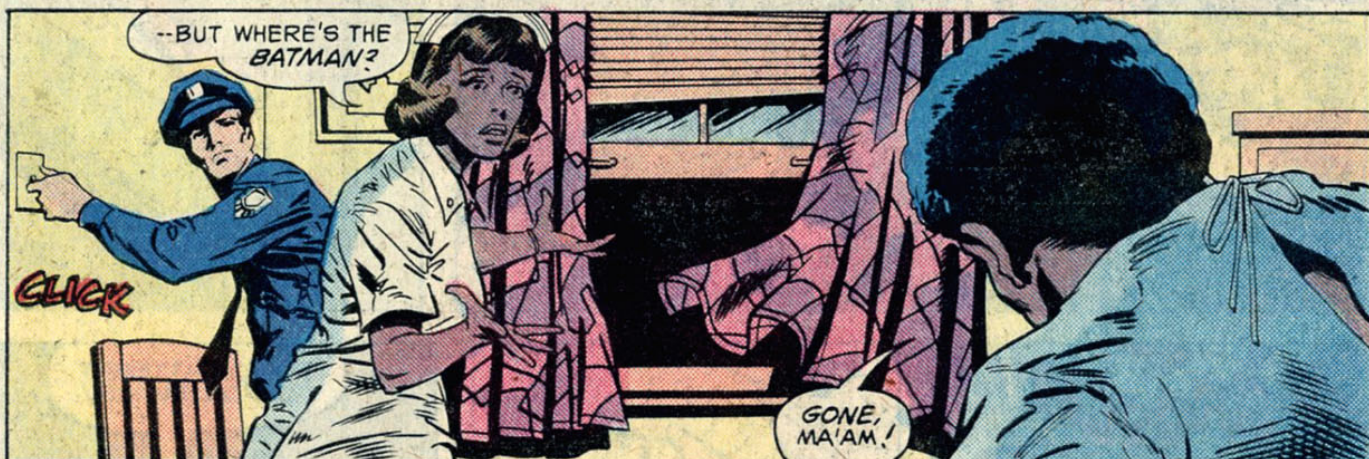
THEY ARE EVIL, THIS STEALTHY PAIR--AND THEY ARE **WATCHED!** ANOTHER IS WITH THEM, UNSEEN, YET ABOUT TO ACT...

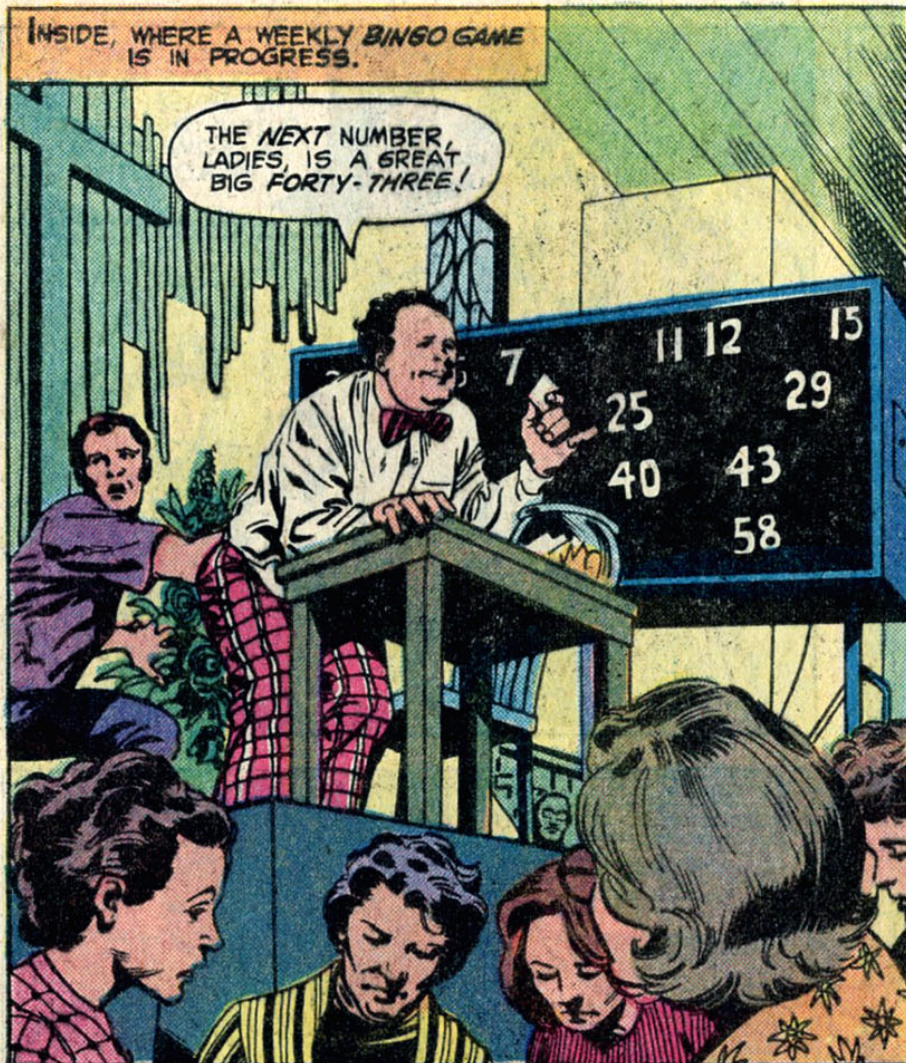
WHERE STRIKE THE ASSASSINS

DENNY D'NEIL
WRITER
DON NEWTON
AND
DAN ADKINS
ARTISTS
BEN ODA
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ADRIENNE ROY
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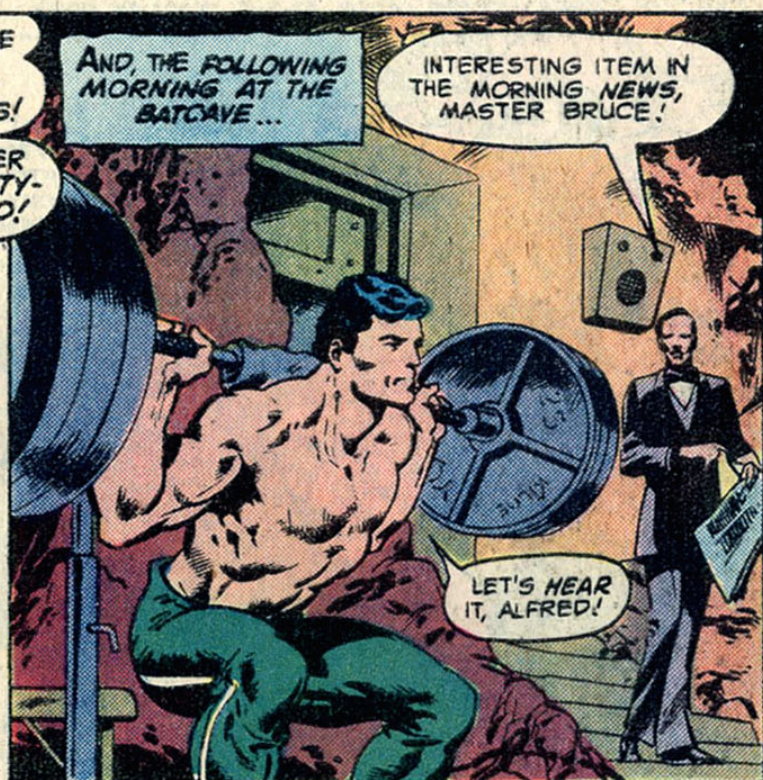


OF ALL THE NERVE! HE SIMPLY SHATTERED PART OF OUR BOARD!



WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CARRY ON WITHOUT IT, LADIES!

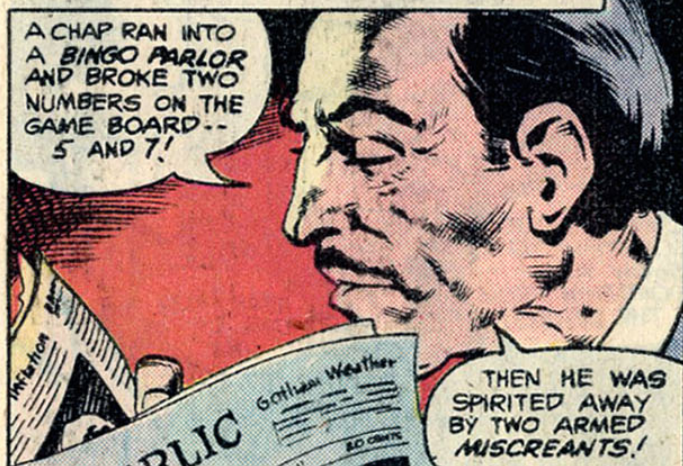
NUMBER TWENTY-TWO!



AND, THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT THE BATCAVE...

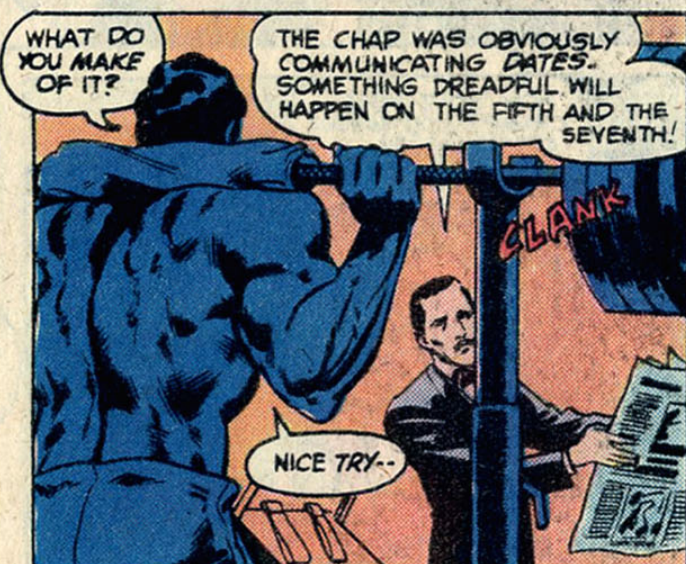
INTERESTING ITEM IN THE MORNING NEWS, MASTER BRUCE!

LET'S HEAR IT, ALFRED!



A CHAP RAN INTO A BINGO PARLOR AND BROKE TWO NUMBERS ON THE GAME BOARD-- 5 AND 7!

THEN HE WAS SPIRITED AWAY BY TWO ARMED MISCREANTS!



WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

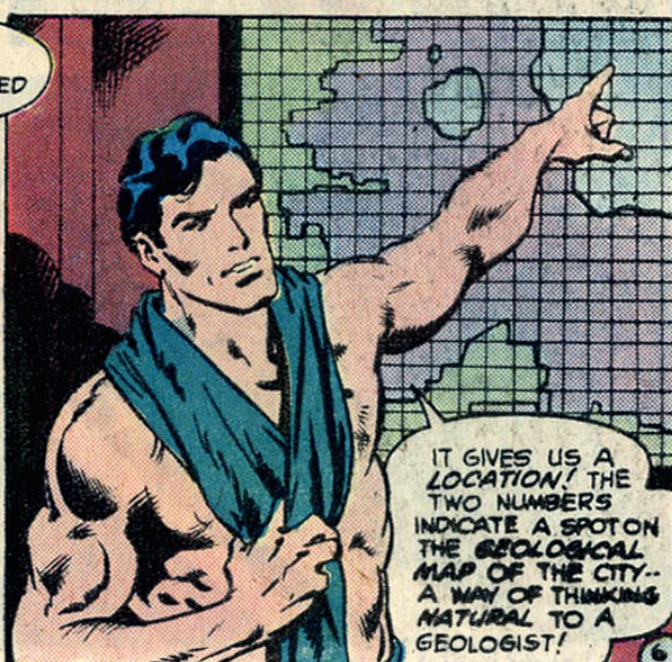
THE CHAP WAS OBVIOUSLY COMMUNICATING DATES. SOMETHING DREADFUL WILL HAPPEN ON THE FIFTH AND THE SEVENTH!

NICE TRY--



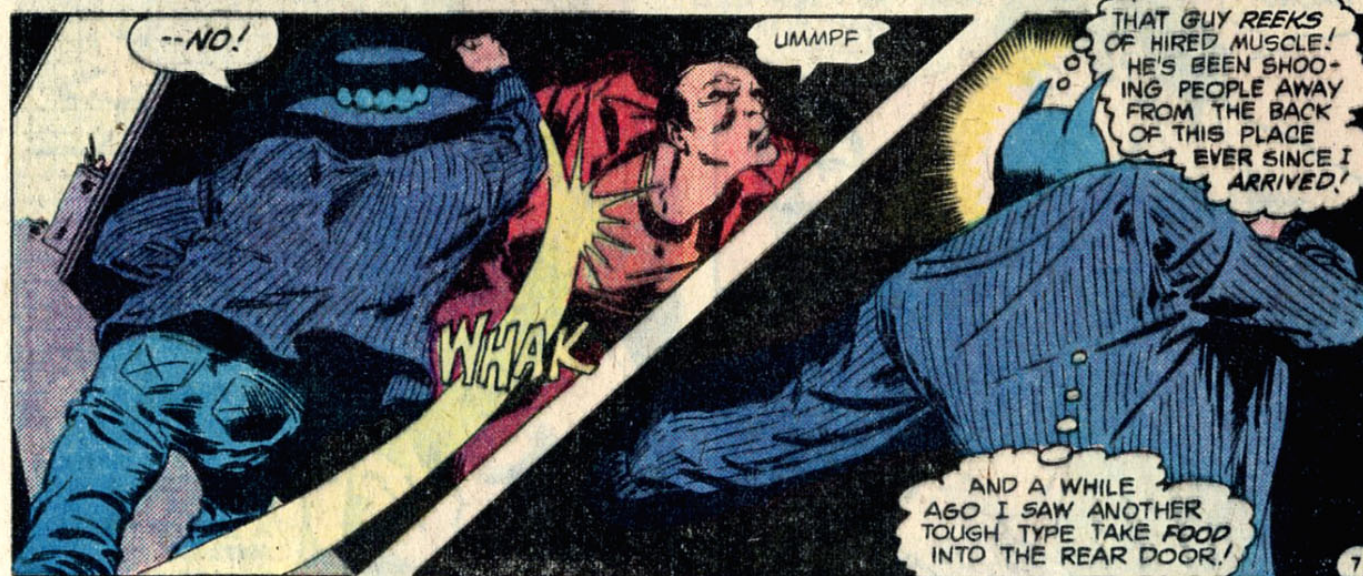
--BUT DEAD WRONG.

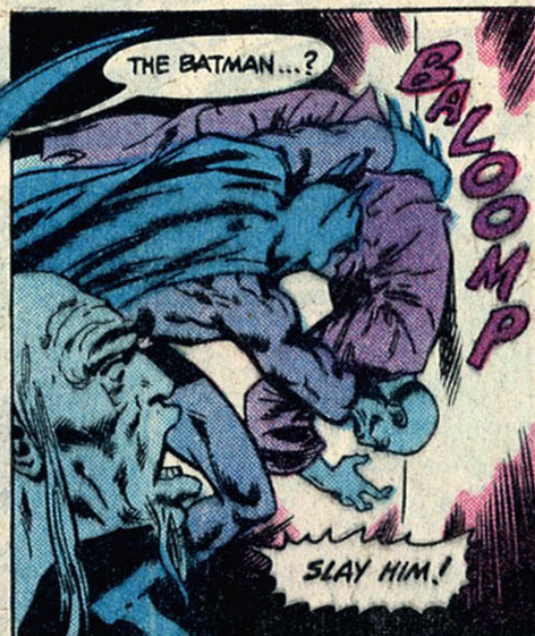
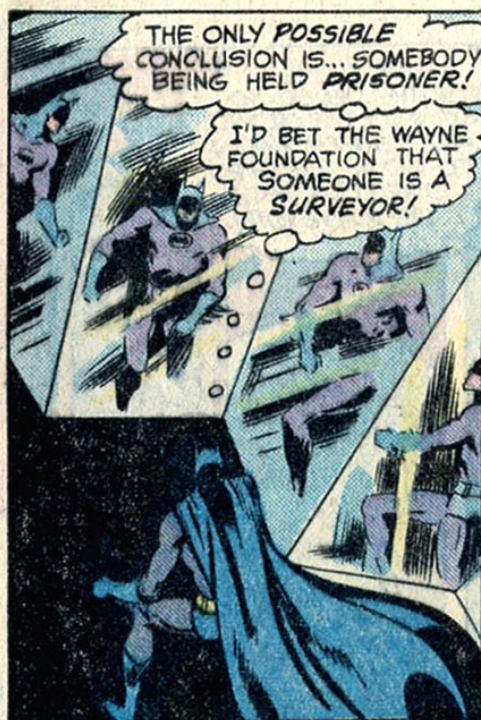
ADD IT TOGETHER WITH WHAT THE TIGER TOLD ME... ABOUT A KIDNAPPED GEOLOGIST!



IT GIVES US A LOCATION! THE TWO NUMBERS INDICATE A SPOT ON THE GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE CITY-- A WAY OF THINKING NATURAL TO A GEOLOGIST!

EXACTLY THREE HOURS LATER, AT THE SKYWAY PARK...





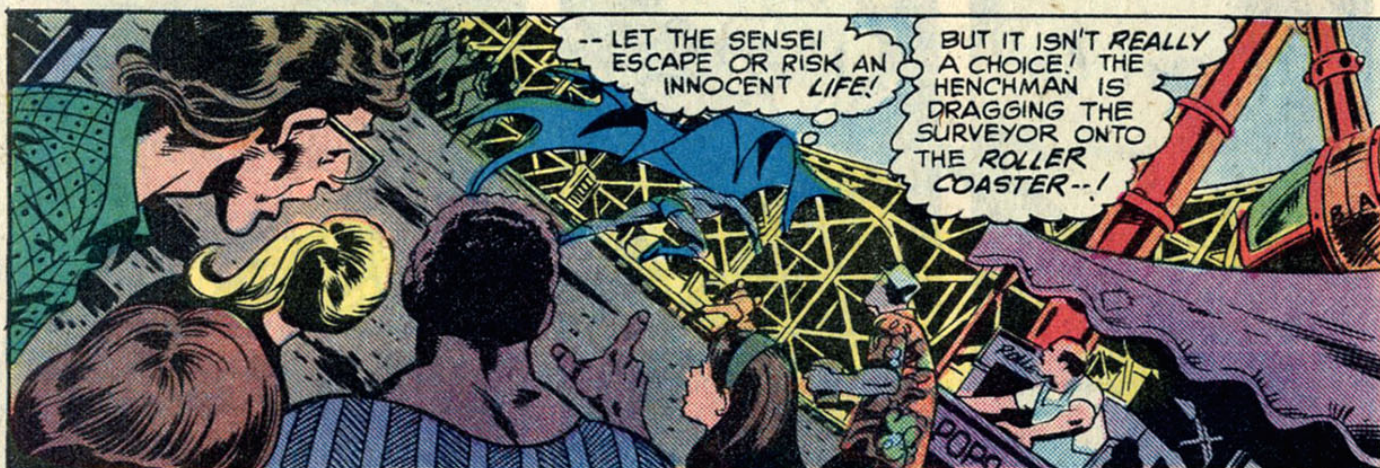


THIS THUG IS
JUST GOOD ENOUGH
TO SLOW ME A
FEW SECONDS--



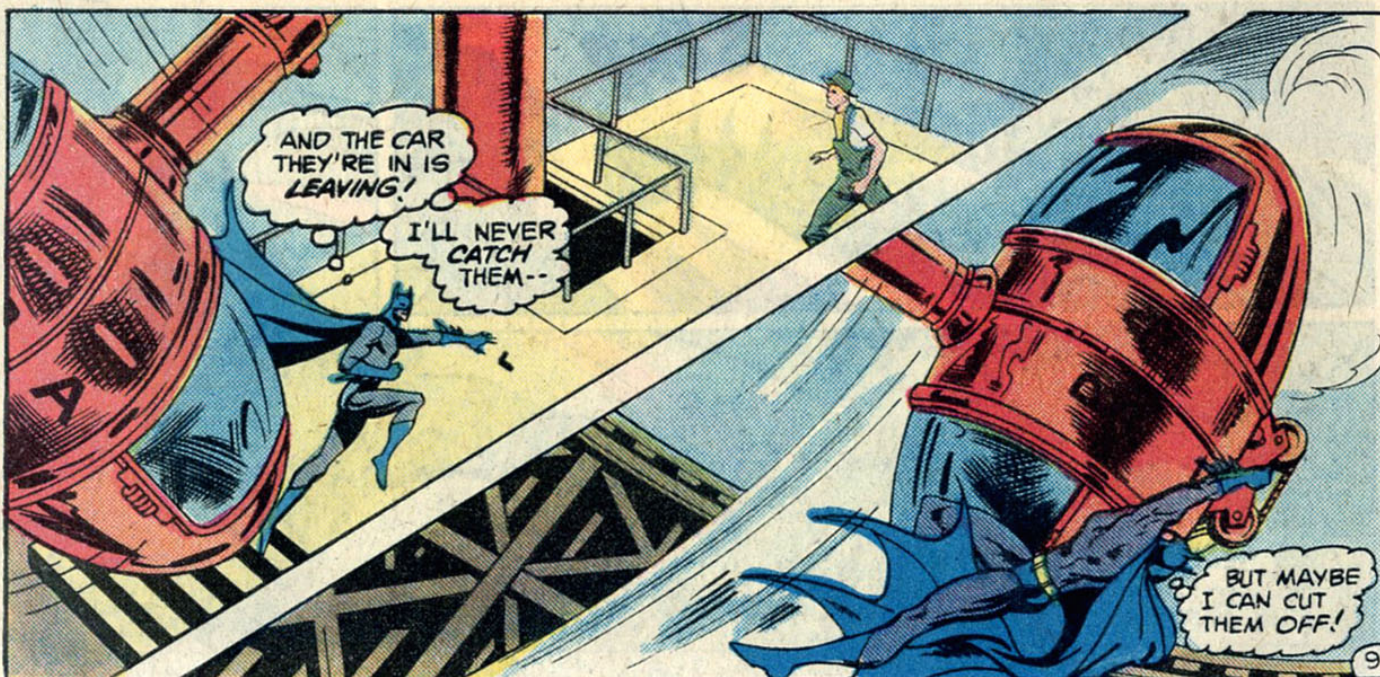
--TIME ENOUGH
FOR THE SENSEI TO
RUN INTO THE CROWD
AND HIS HENCHMAN
TO GO IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION WITH
THE SURVEYOR!

ROTTEN
CHOICE
I HAVE--



-- LET THE SENSEI
ESCAPE OR RISK AN
INNOCENT LIFE!

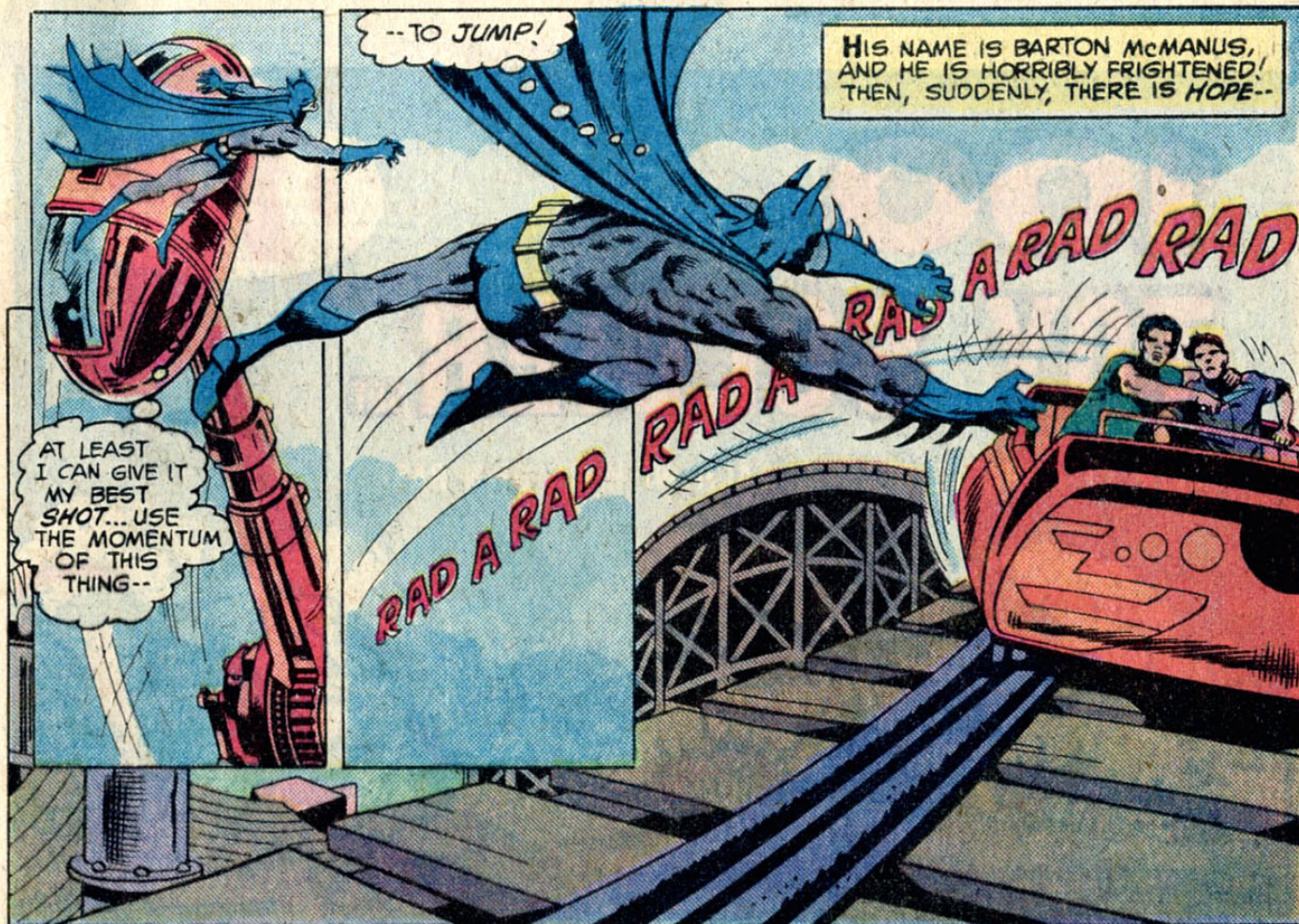
BUT IT ISN'T REALLY
A CHOICE! THE
HENCHMAN IS
DRAGGING THE
SURVEYOR ONTO
THE ROLLER
COASTER--!



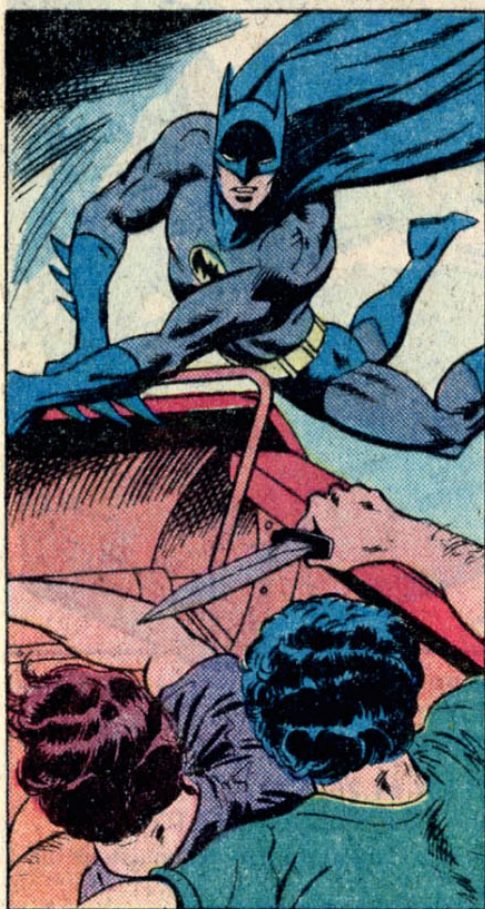
AND THE CAR
THEY'RE IN IS
LEAVING!

I'LL NEVER
CATCH
THEM--

BUT MAYBE
I CAN CUT
THEM OFF!



HIS NAME IS BARTON McMANUS, AND HE IS HORRIBLY FRIGHTENED! THEN, SUDDENLY, THERE IS HOPE--



--HOPE HE CAN HARDLY BRING HIMSELF TO BELIEVE! HE SENSES AN EQUAL DISBELIEF IN THE MURDERER BESIDE HIM AS A DARK FIGURE MATERIALIZES ...



His NAME IS BARTON McMANUS, AND THE LAST THINGS HE REMEMBERS BEFORE BLESSED SLEEP CLAIMS HIM ARE A FIRM TOUCH AND A VOICE CALM AS ETERNITY...

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, FRIEND!

YOU HAVE JUST SEEN THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASH THAT WILL TURN GOTHAM CITY INTO A BATTLE GROUND AS THE BATMAN AND THE SENSEI BATTLE OVER SIX OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LIVES ON EARTH! NEXT MONTH, WITNESS THE INCREDIBLE END!

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WITH BATMAN
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
THE CLIMACTIC CHAPTER!**

**Plus
NEW
ROBIN
AND
BATGIRL
SOLO-EPICS!**



**AND NOW
IN HIS OWN
SERIES!**

**Black
LIGHTNING!**



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **BRUCE WAYNE** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

BAT MAN

CREATED BY

BOB KANE

MAKE NO MISTAKE... THERE IS A MOON THIS STILL, UNSEASONABLY COLD NIGHT! ONLY A MOMENT AGO IT BATHED GOTHAM CITY IN A PALE BRASS GLOW! NOW, HOWEVER, IT HIDES BEHIND CLOUDS BLOATED WITH RAIN AND A CHILL WIND RUSTLES IN FROM THE OCEAN!

THERE IS A NEAR SILENCE HERE ON THE DOCKS, BROKEN ONLY BY THE LAPPING OF THE WAVES, THE MUTED GRUNTS OF LABORING MEN AND A WHISPERED CRY --

BATMAN--!

IN A MOMENT, THERE WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A TERRIBLE VIOLENCE AND A RACE THE BATMAN CAN NOT HOPE TO WIN-- YET CAN NOT AFFORD TO LOSE...

REQUIEM FOR A MARTYR!

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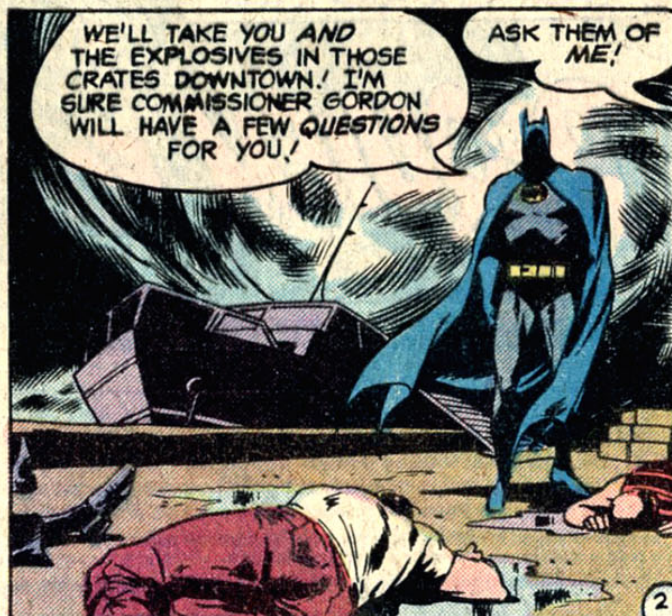
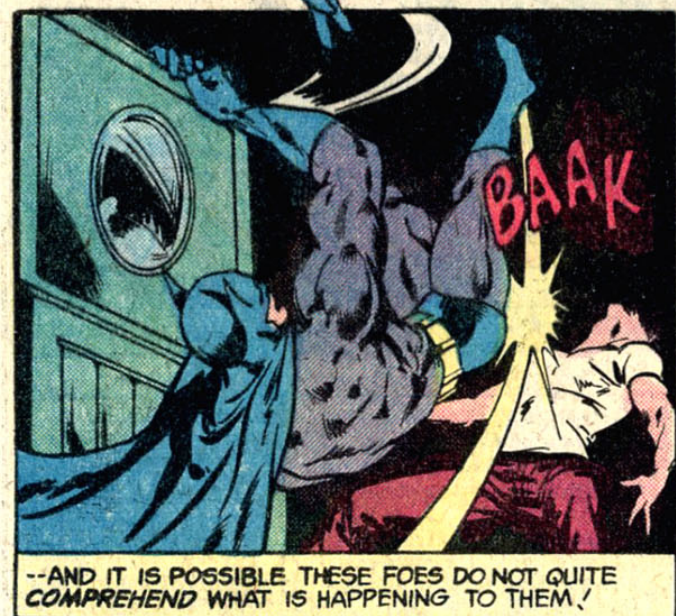
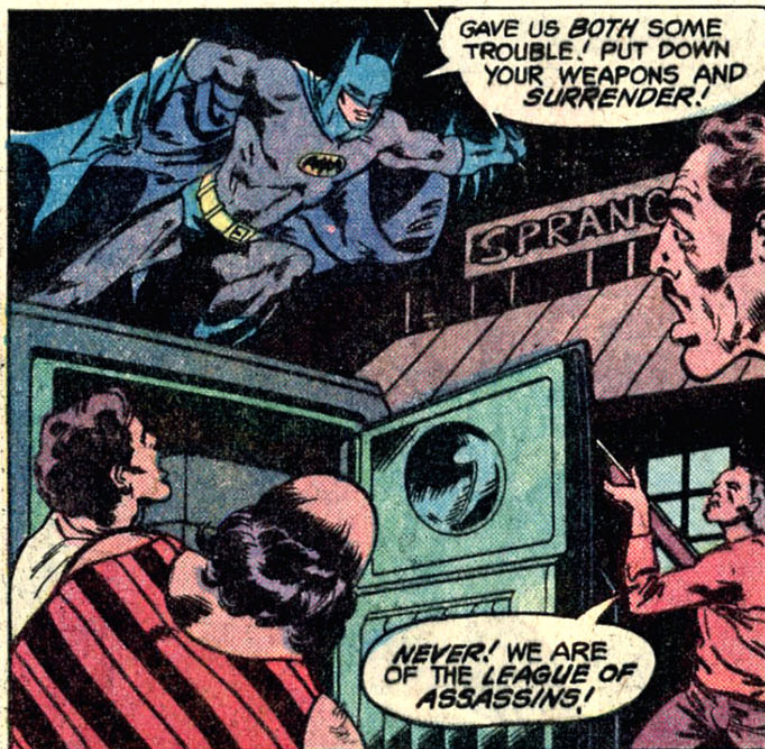
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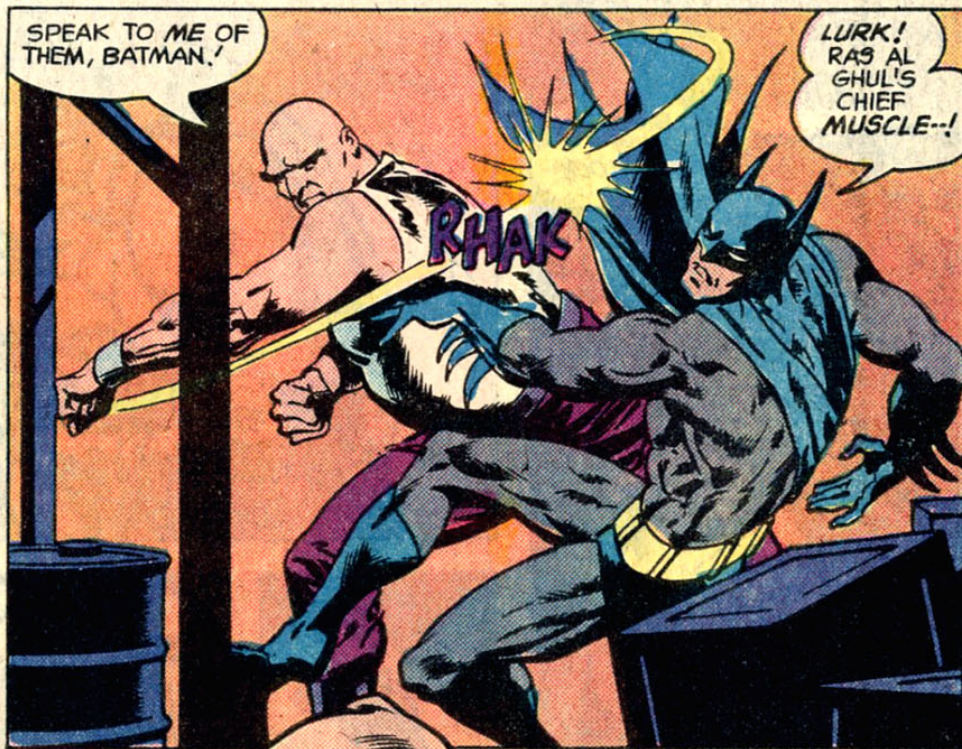
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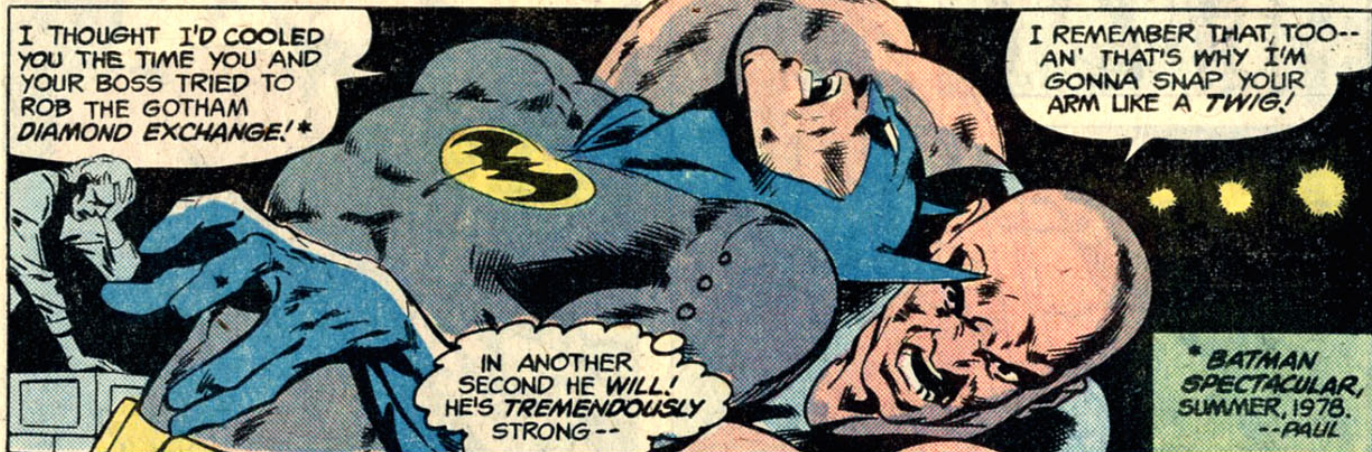
I'LL ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS!



SPEAK TO ME OF
THEM, BATMAN!

LURK!
RAS AL
GHUL'S
CHIEF
MUSCLE--!

RHAK

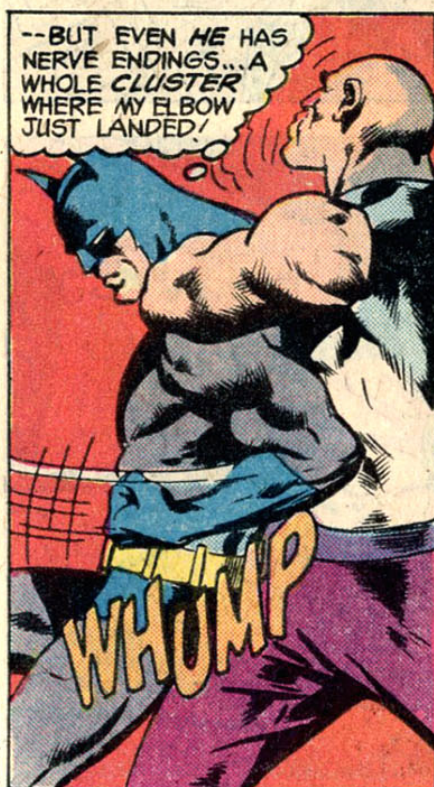


I THOUGHT I'D COOLED
YOU THE TIME YOU AND
YOUR BOSS TRIED TO
ROB THE GOTHAM
DIAMOND EXCHANGE!*

I REMEMBER THAT, TOO--
AN' THAT'S WHY I'M
GONNA SNAP YOUR
ARM LIKE A TWIG!

IN ANOTHER
SECOND HE WILL!
HE'S TREMENDOUSLY
STRONG--

* BATMAN
SPECTACULAR,
SUMMER, 1978.
--PAUL

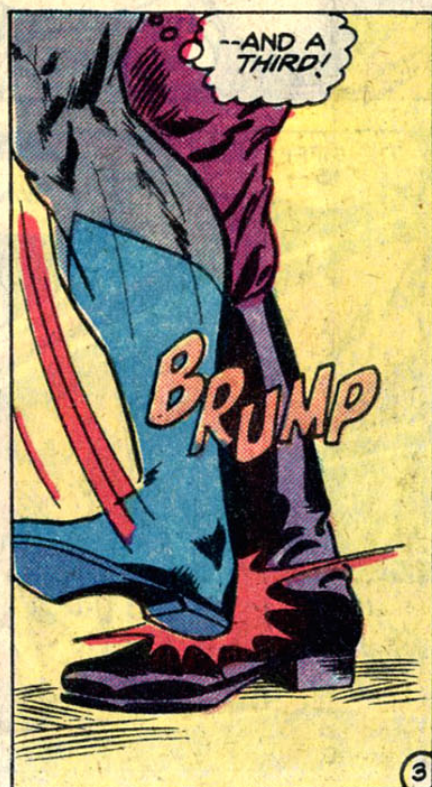


--BUT EVEN HE HAS
NERVE ENDINGS...A
WHOLE CLUSTER
WHERE MY ELBOW
JUST LANDED!

WHUMP

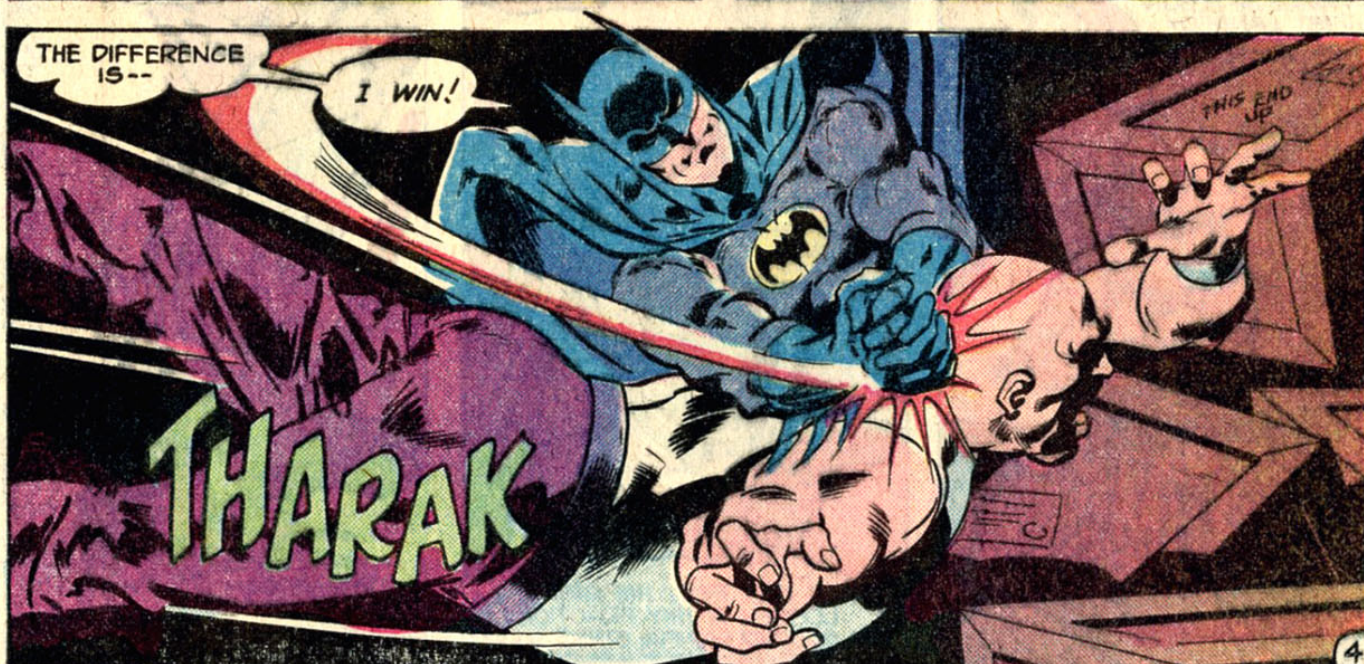
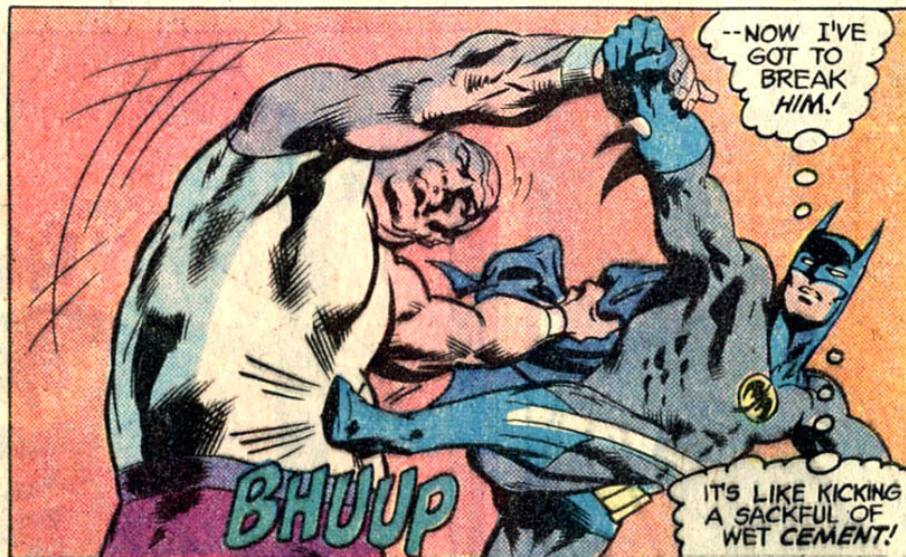


I CAN FEEL HIS GRIP
LOOSEN A TINY FRACTION!
A SECOND PAINFUL STRIKE SHOULD
LOOSEN IT A BIT MORE!



--AND A
THIRD!

BRUMP





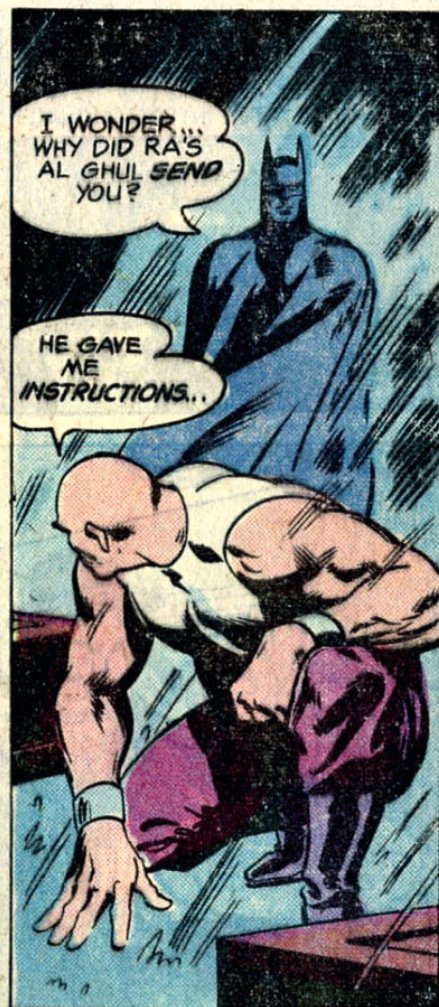
NO CHANCE OF CATCHING THE SENSEI'S CREW -- AND THEY'VE PROBABLY GOTTEN AWAY WITH ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO DO WHATEVER DIRTY JOB THEIR LEADER'S PLANNING!



HOW ARE YOU FEELING? TERRIBLE, I HOPE!

THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME!

AND YOU'LL END UP THE LOSER THEN, TOO!



I WONDER... WHY DID RA'S AL GHUL SEND YOU?

HE GAVE ME INSTRUCTIONS...



...I WAS TO PREVENT THE SENSEI'S MEN FROM UNLOADING THE BOAT!

BUT YOU COULDN'T RESIST TAKING A SHOT AT ME!



YOU REALLY FOULED THIS ONE, FRIEND! RA'S IS GOING TO BE VERY UNHAPPY!



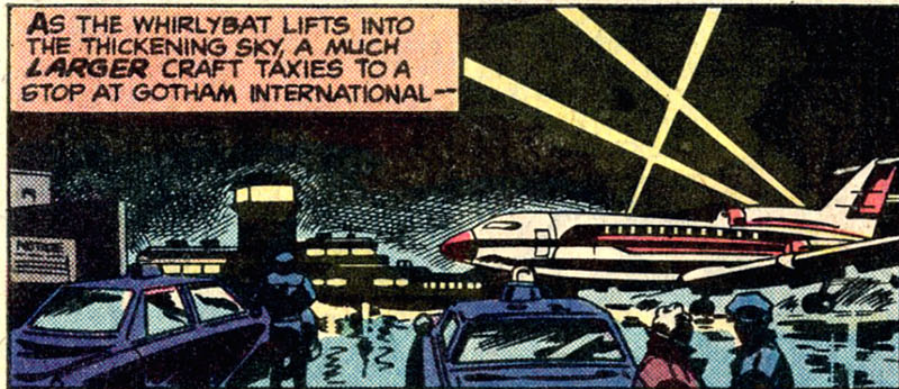
IF I WERE YOU, I'D FIND A PLACE TO HIDE -- PREFERABLY ON ANOTHER PLANET!



RA'S AND I BOTH LOSE THE OPENING SKIRMISH! SO I'VE GOT TO OUTTHINK THE SENSEI!

FOR THAT, I'LL NEED BARTON MCMANUS'S HELP!

AS THE WHIRLYBAT LIFTS INTO THE THICKENING SKY, A MUCH LARGER CRAFT TAXIES TO A STOP AT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL--



--AND FOUR DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES DEBOUCH IN THE TERMINAL, TO BE GREETED BY THE MAYOR...

WELCOME, YOUR HOLINESSES!



DELIGHTFUL! DELIGHTFUL TO BE HERE!

I SECOND THE ARCHBISHOP'S SENTIMENTS!



A LIMOUSINE IS WAITING TO CARRY YOU TO YOUR COLLEAGUES!

WHO ARE THEY?

BEG YOUR PARDON, REVEREND REENEY?

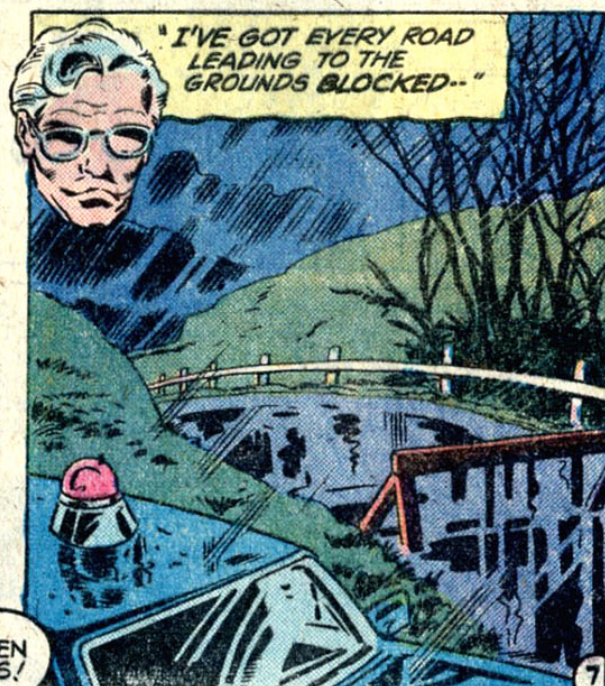
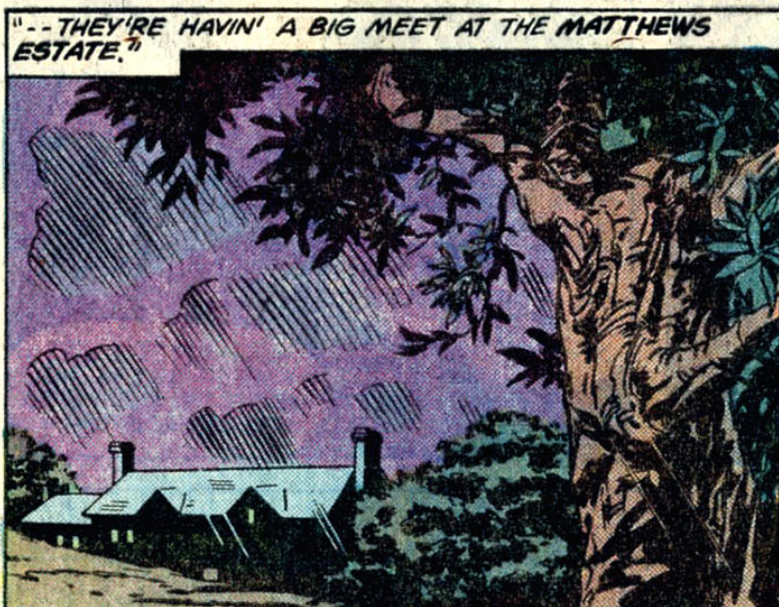
I SAID... WHO ARE THEY?

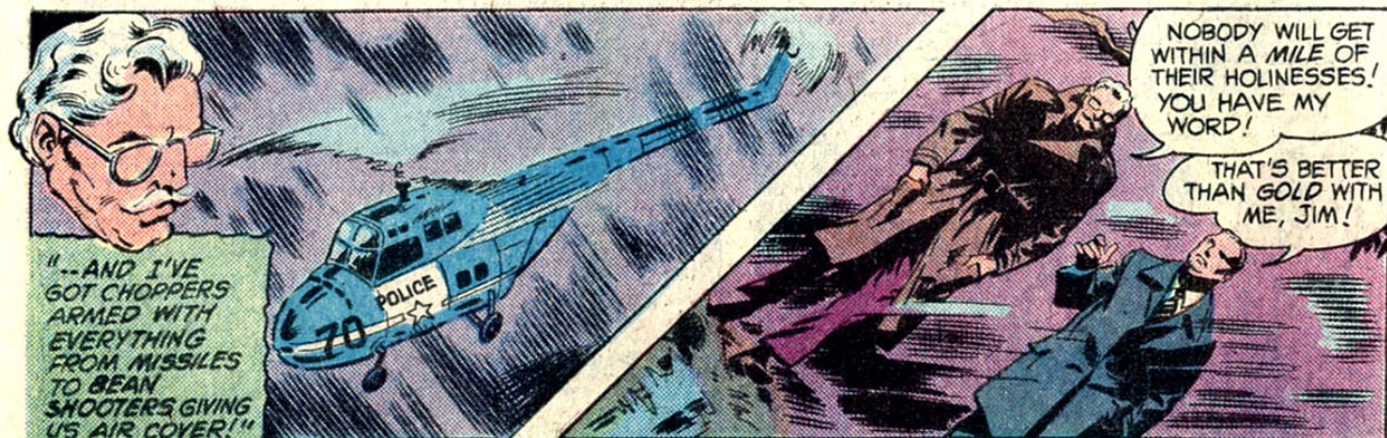
YOUR BODYGUARD, REVEREND! COMMISSIONER GORDON IS COMMANDING THEM PERSONALLY...

DISMISS THEM.

I WILL NOT HAVE ARMED MEN IN MY PRESENCE! MY CHURCH DISDAINS WEAPONS OF ALL SORTS!

I DO NOT WISH TO SEE THEM AGAIN! IS THAT QUITE CLEAR?

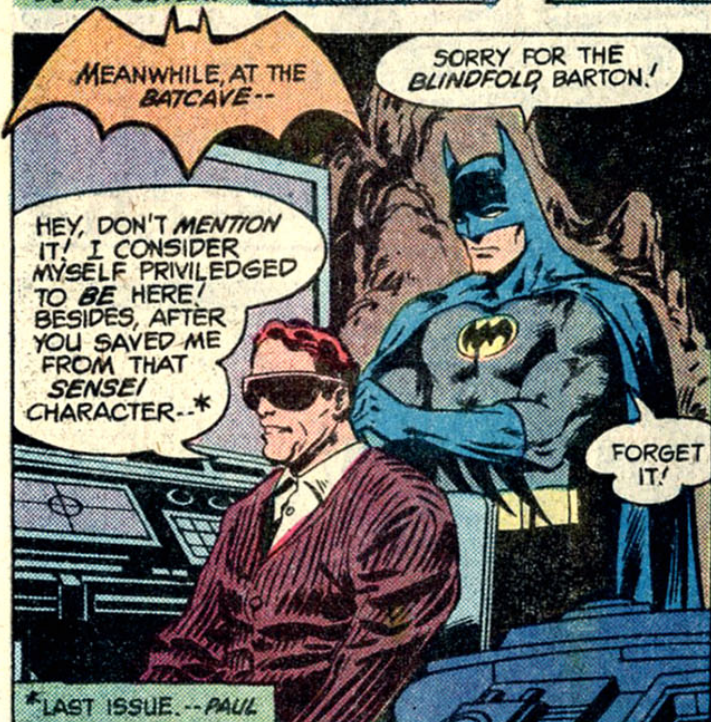




"--AND I'VE GOT CHOPPERS ARMED WITH EVERYTHING FROM MISSILES TO BEAN SHOOTERS GIVING US AIR COVER!"

NOBODY WILL GET WITHIN A MILE OF THEIR HOLINESSES! YOU HAVE MY WORD!

THAT'S BETTER THAN GOLD WITH ME, JIM!



MEANWHILE, AT THE BATCAVE--

SORRY FOR THE BLINDFOLD, BARTON!

HEY, DON'T MENTION IT! I CONSIDER MYSELF PRIVILEGED TO BE HERE! BESIDES, AFTER YOU SAVED ME FROM THAT SENSEI CHARACTER--*

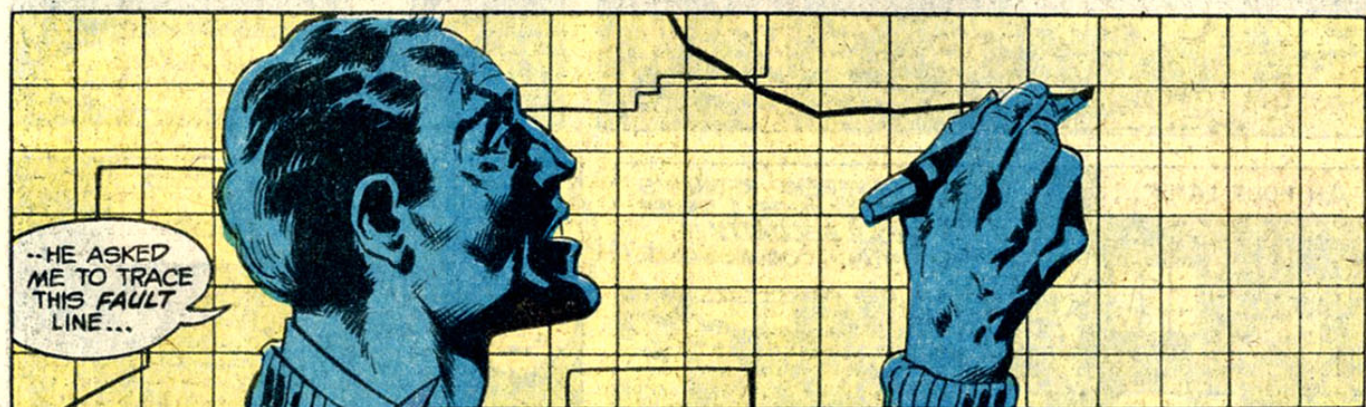
FORGET IT!

*LAST ISSUE.--PAUL



LET'S GO OVER YOUR STORY AGAIN! YOU SAY THE SENSEI ASKED YOU TO PLOT SOMETHING ON A GEOLOGICAL MAP OF GOTHAM?

YEAH, AFTER I WAS FORCED TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVES YOU INTERCEPTED--



--HE ASKED ME TO TRACE THIS FAULT LINE...

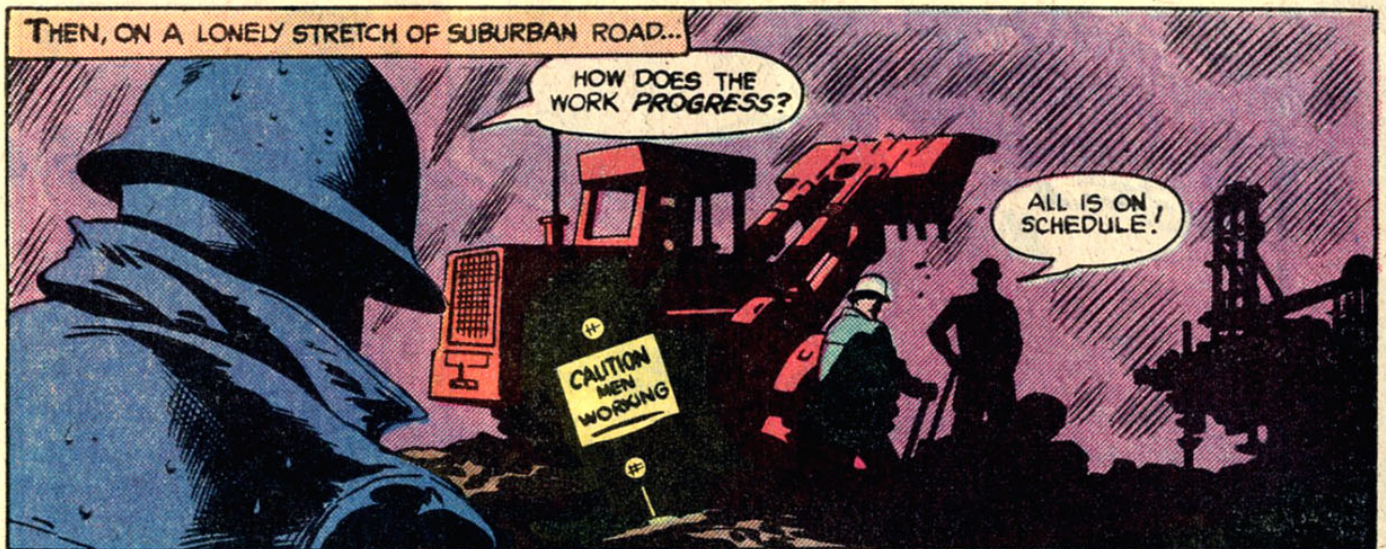
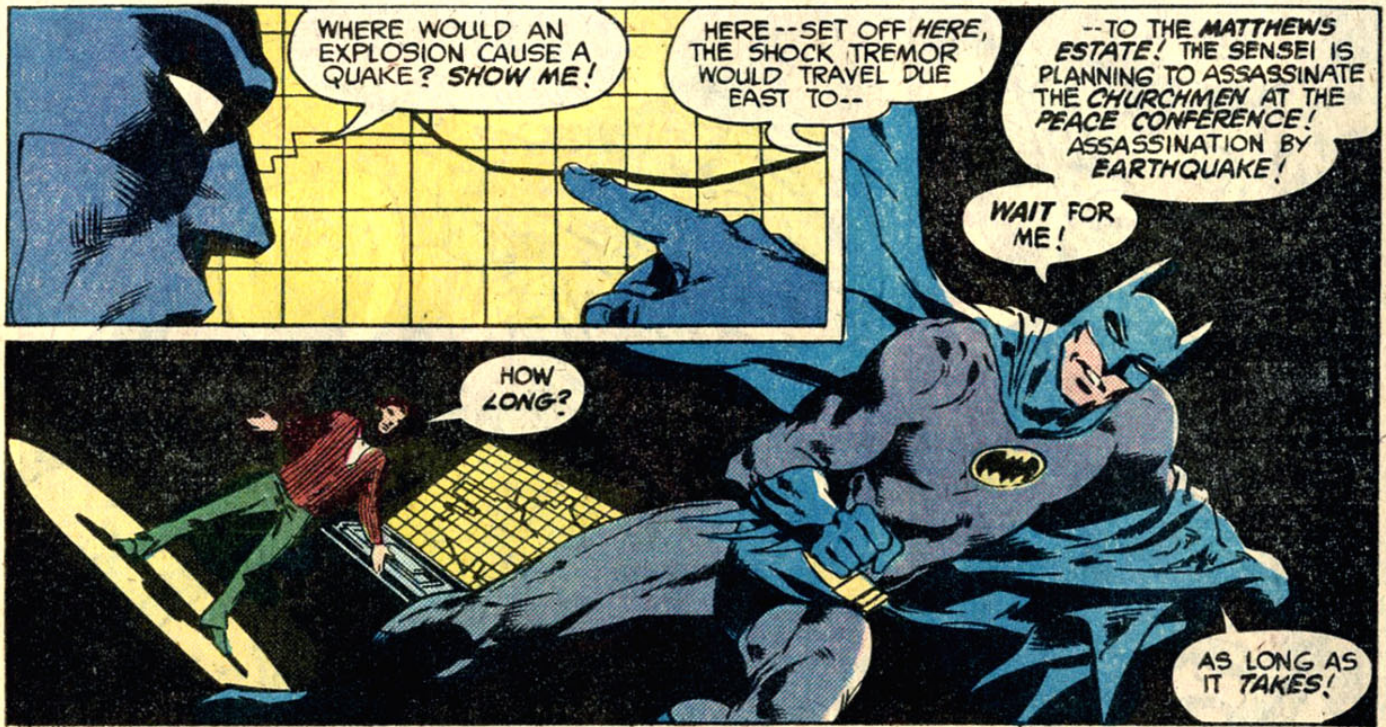


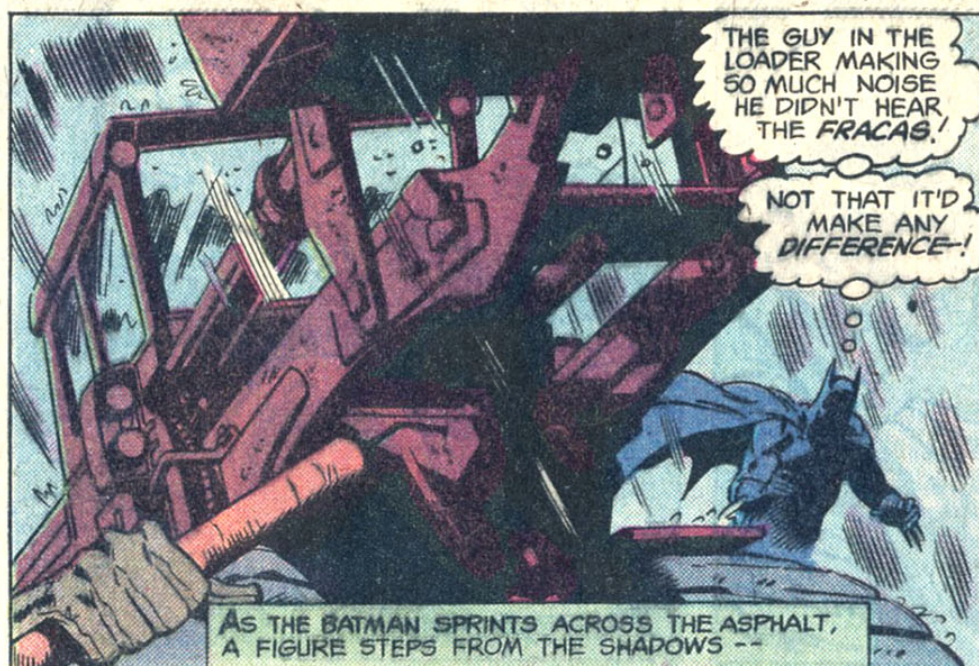
A QUESTION, BARTON--AND YOU'LL NEVER ANSWER A MORE IMPORTANT ONE: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE CAUSED AN EXPLOSION ALONG THE FAULT LINE?

DEPENDS... MAYBE NOTHING, MAYBE A MINIATURE EARTHQUAKE!

8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.





THE METRONOMIC NOISE
OF THE MACHINERY IS
DEAFENING --

WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
RUNCH



--AND SO THE
SILENCE WHICH
FOLLOWS IT IS
LIKE A PHYSICAL
BLOW!

YOU'VE BEEN
DRIVING EXPLOSIVE
CAPSULES INTO AN
EARTH FISSURE!
IS THERE A *TIMER*
ATTACHED TO THEM?

Y-YES...



THEN I HAVE THAT
LONG TO DEACTIVATE
THEM. / SHOULD
BE PLENTY--

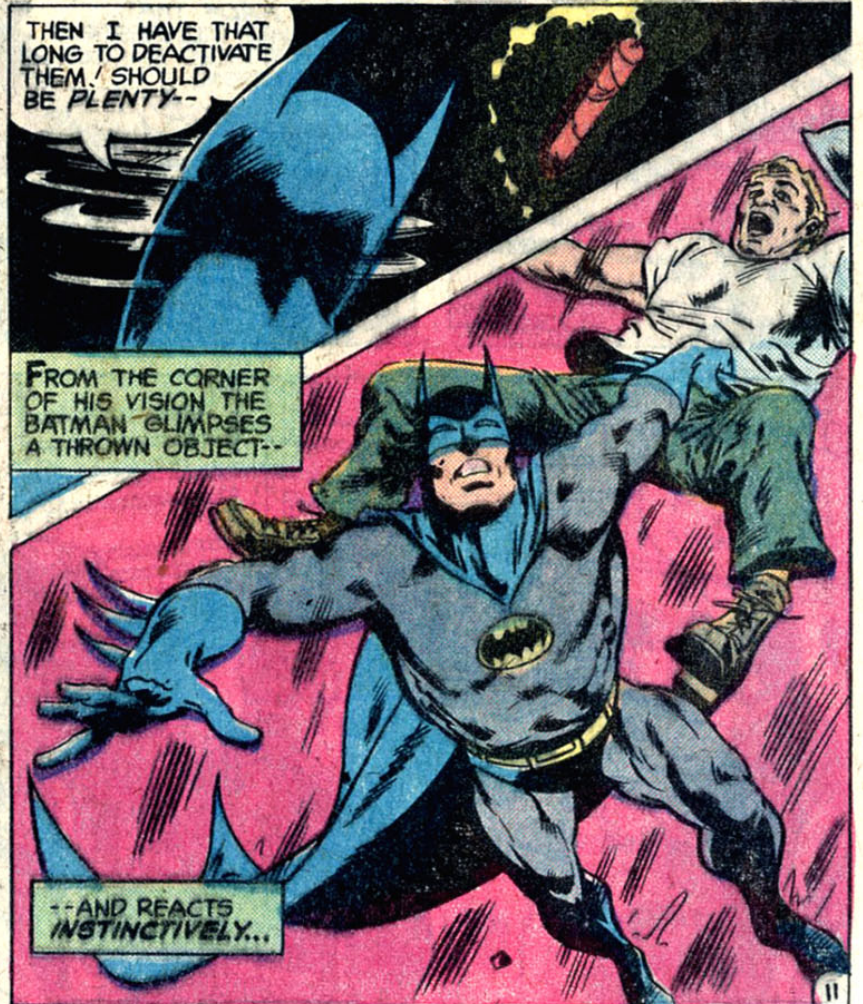
SET TO
GO OFF
WHEN?

IN
ABOUT
THIRTY
MINUTES!



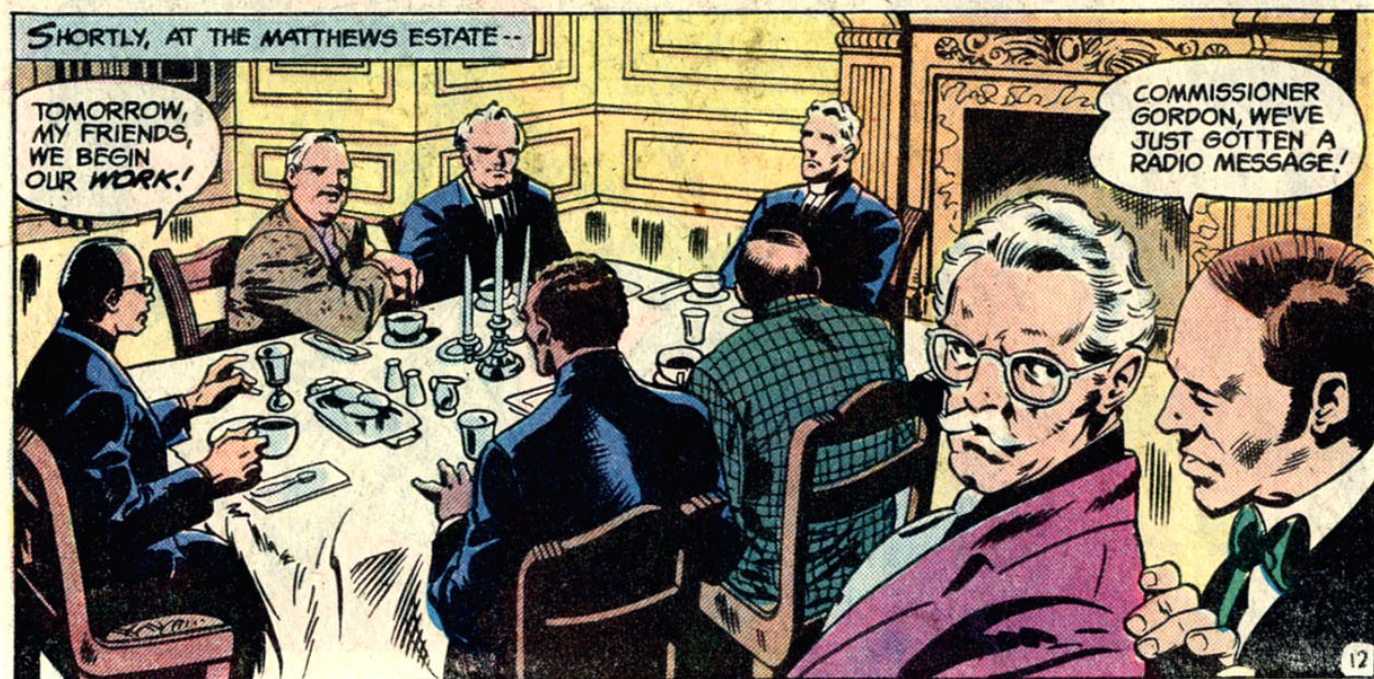
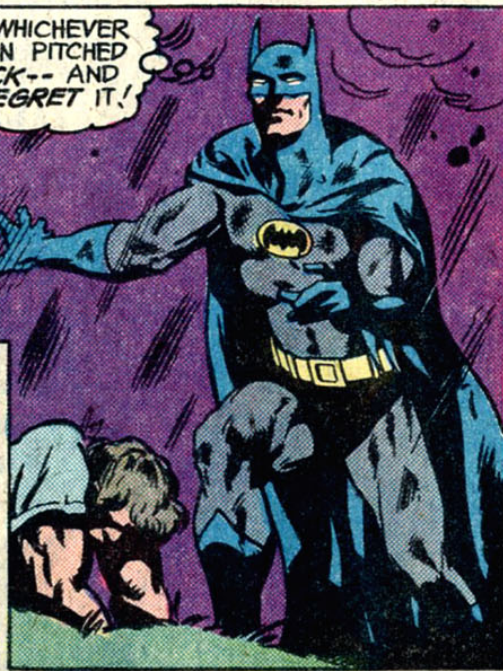
FROM THE CORNER
OF HIS VISION THE
BATMAN GLIMPSES
A THROWN OBJECT--

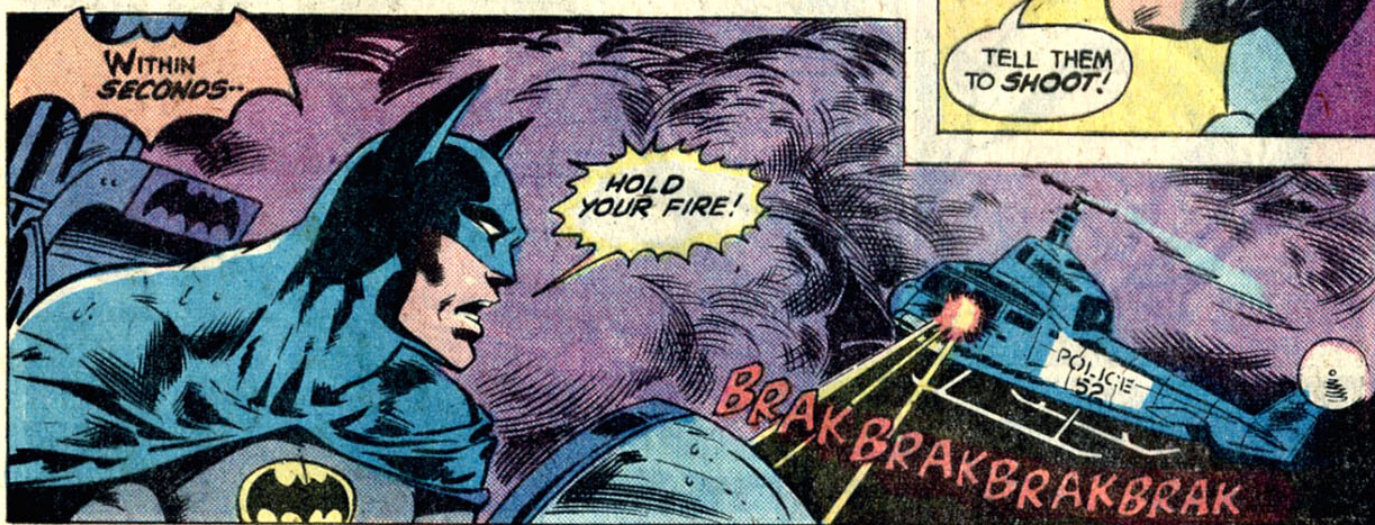
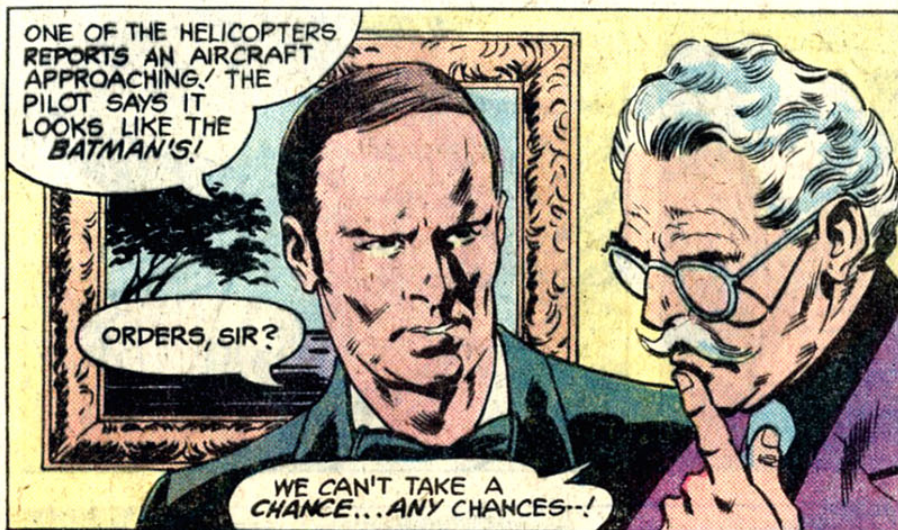
--AND REACTS
INSTINCTIVELY...

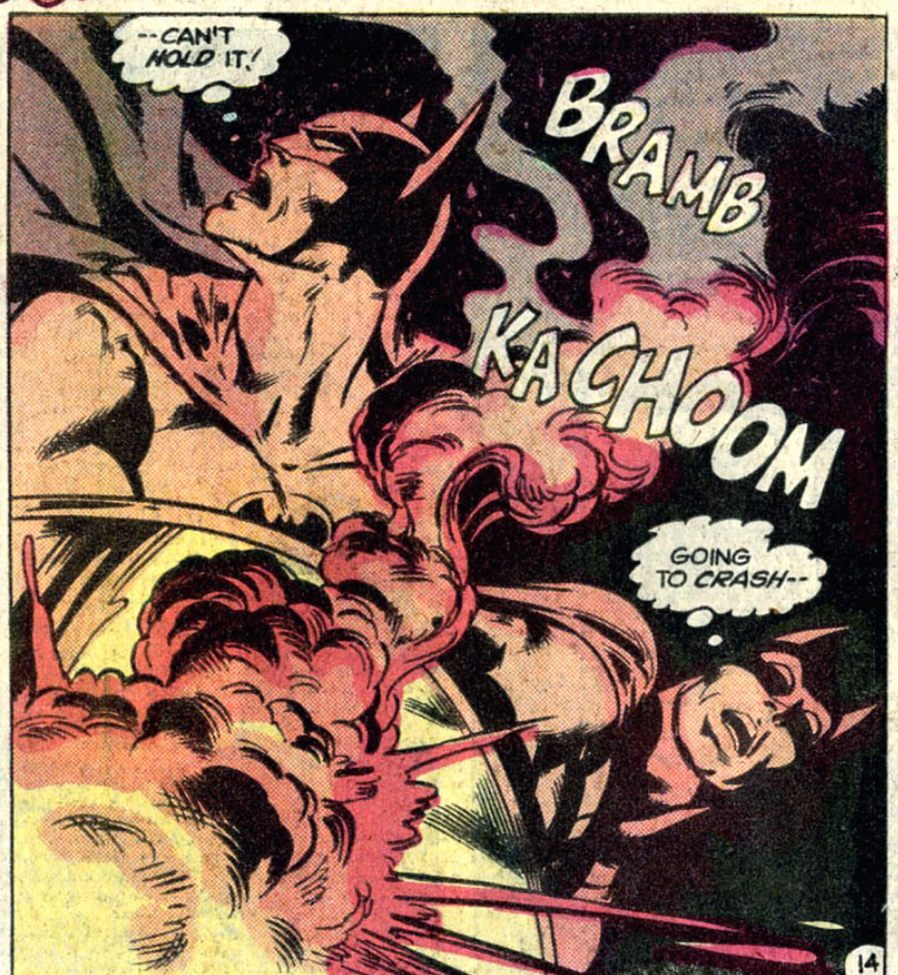
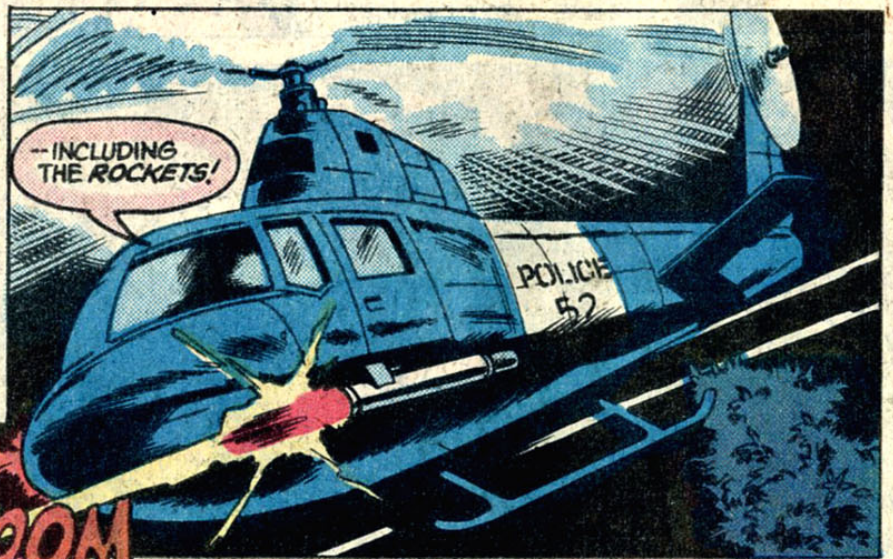


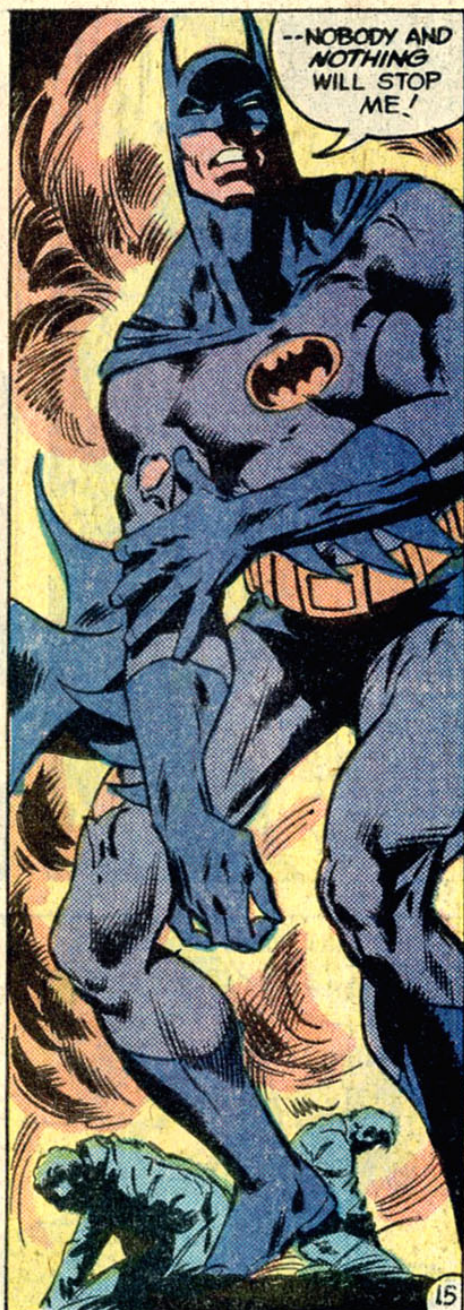


I'D LIKE TO CHASE WHICHEVER OF THE SENSEI'S MEN PITCHED THAT DYNAMITE STICK-- AND PERSUADE HIM TO REGRET IT!
BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!













I HAVE BEEN BEATEN. I HAVE BEEN SHOT. I'VE BEEN SUBJECTED TO FISTS AND BULLETS AND ROCKETS AND DYNAMITE--



--IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR LIFE--



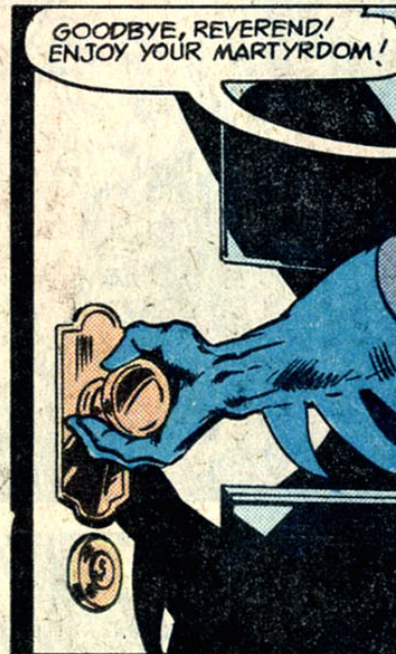
--AND YOU DARE... YOU DARE **REFUSE** TO HAVE IT SAVED?



I COULD **MAKE** YOU COME! I COULD HIT YOU AND **CARRY** YOU OUT AND I **WANT** TO! I'VE NEVER WANTED TO DO ANYTHING **MORE!**



BUT I WON'T... GOD HELP ME, I WILL NOT! IF I BELIEVE ANYTHING, IT'S THAT EACH MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN CHOICES!

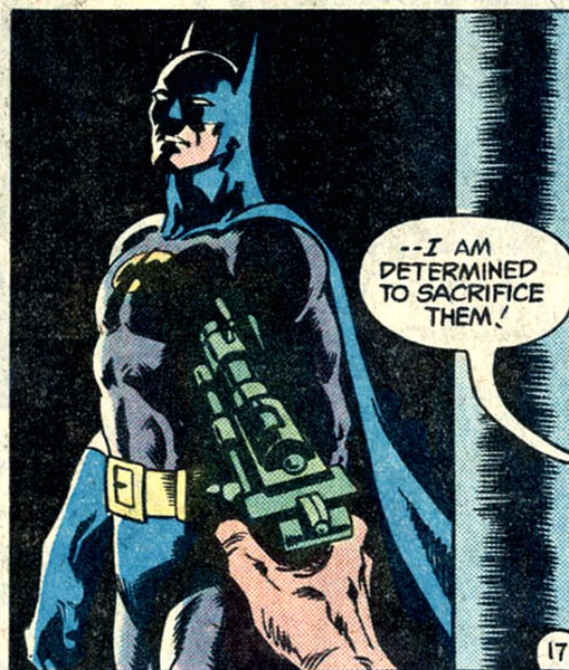


GOODBYE, REVEREND! ENJOY YOUR MARTYRDOM!

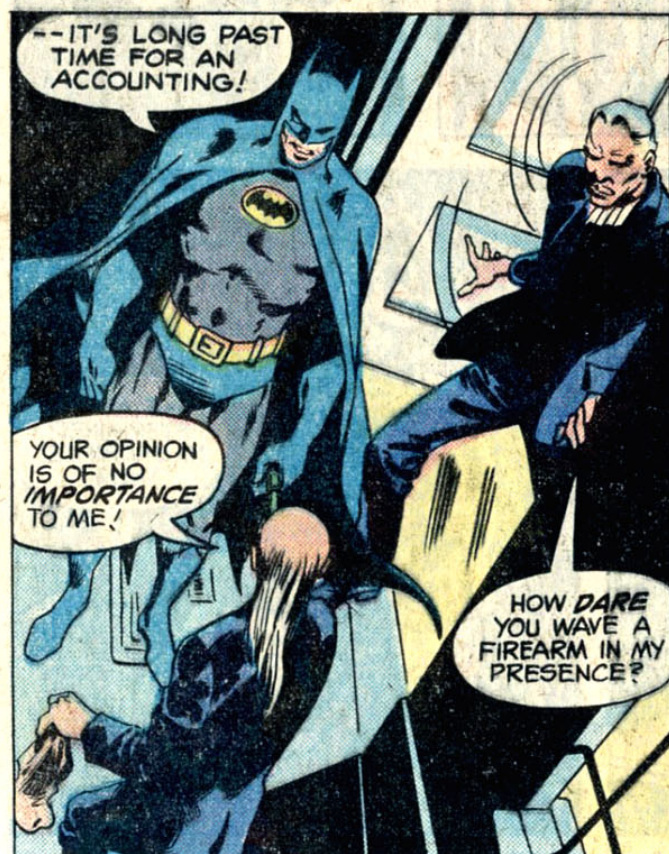
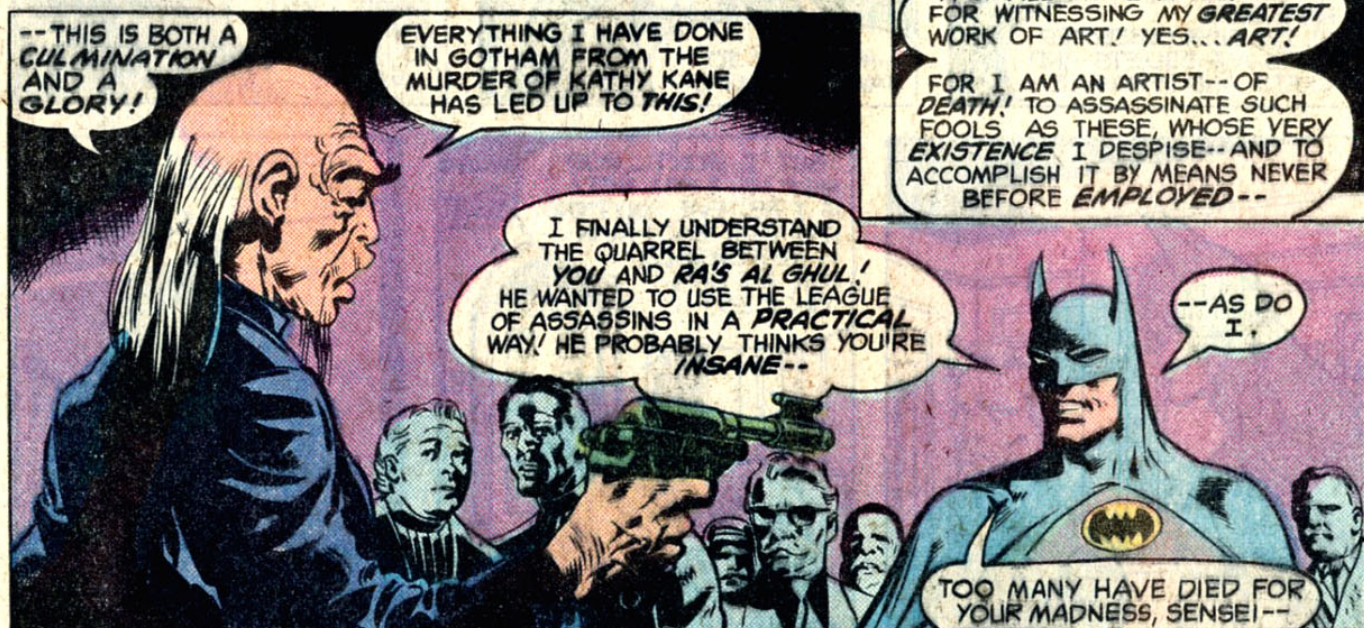


WHAT THE BLAZES ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU HAVE ONLY A **MINUTE** OR TWO! ARE YOU ALL DETERMINED TO SACRIFICE YOURSELVES?

NO, BATMAN--



--I AM DETERMINED TO SACRIFICE THEM!

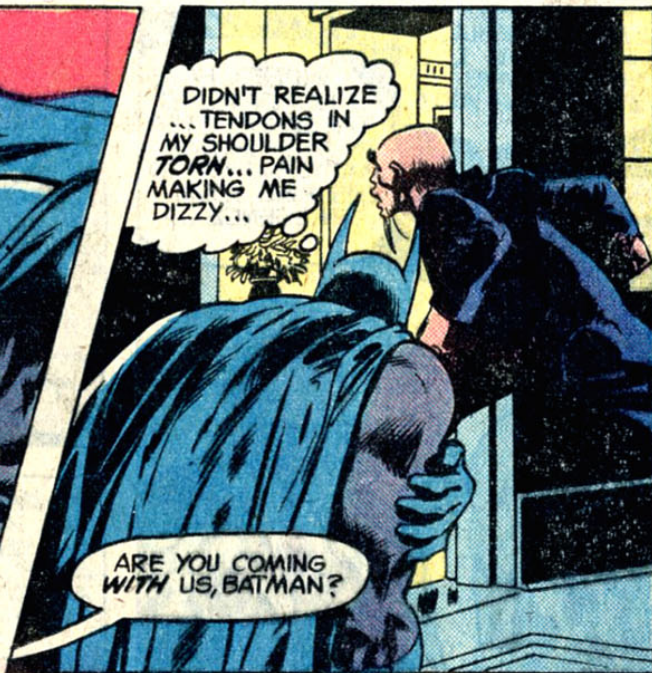


AND AS THE BATMAN'S FIST STRIKES THE SENSEI, A JOLT OF ALMOST UNBEARABLE AGONY RIPS UP HIS ARM...



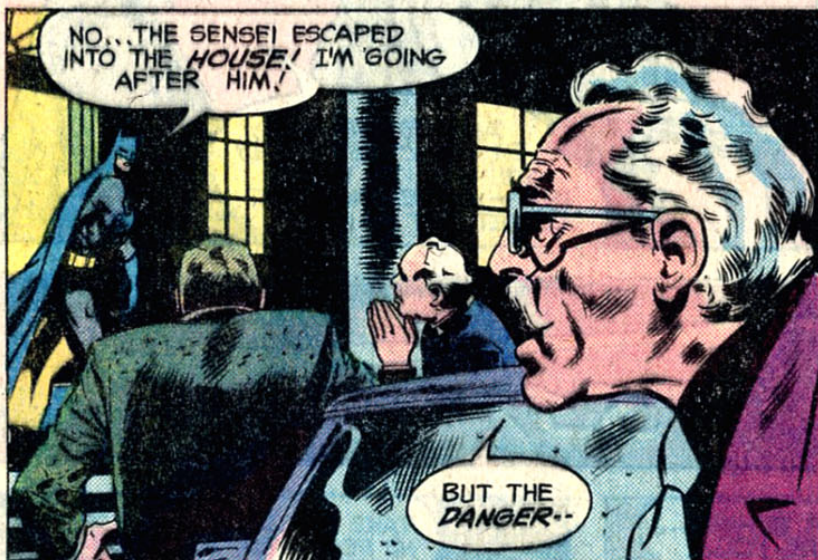
DIDN'T REALIZE ... TENDONS IN MY SHOULDER TORN... PAIN MAKING ME DIZZY...

ARE YOU COMING WITH US, BATMAN?



NO... THE SENSEI ESCAPED INTO THE HOUSE! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

BUT THE DANGER--



GORDON, WILL YOU PLEASE NOT ARGUE WITH ME? WILL YOU PLEASE GET INTO THE CARS?

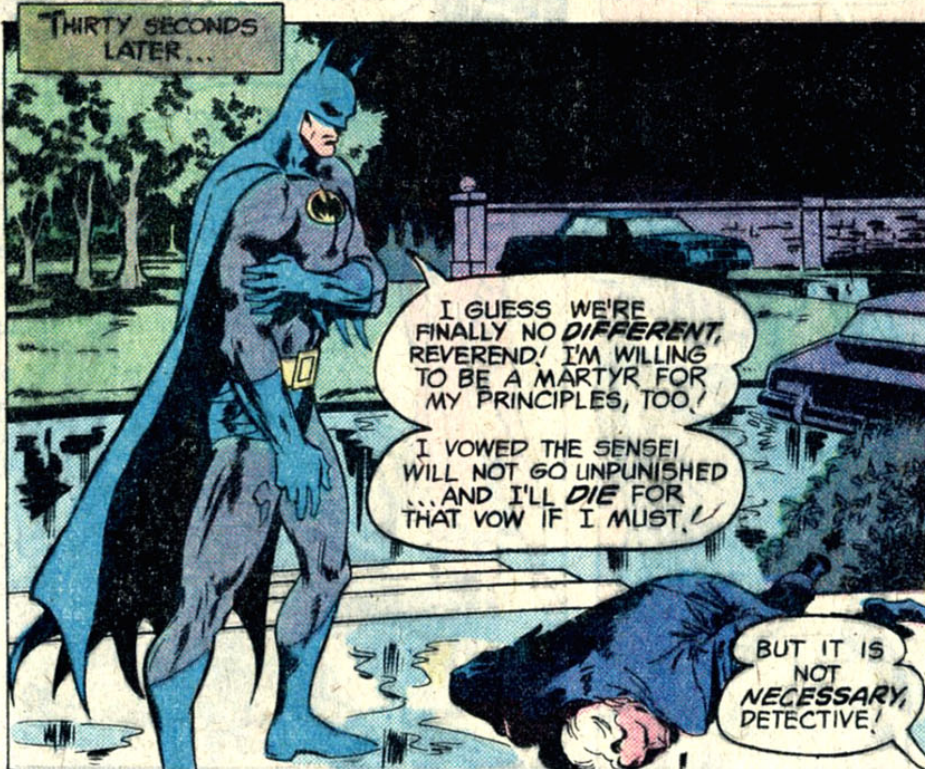


THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

I GUESS WE'RE FINALLY NO DIFFERENT, REVEREND! I'M WILLING TO BE A MARTYR FOR MY PRINCIPLES, TOO!

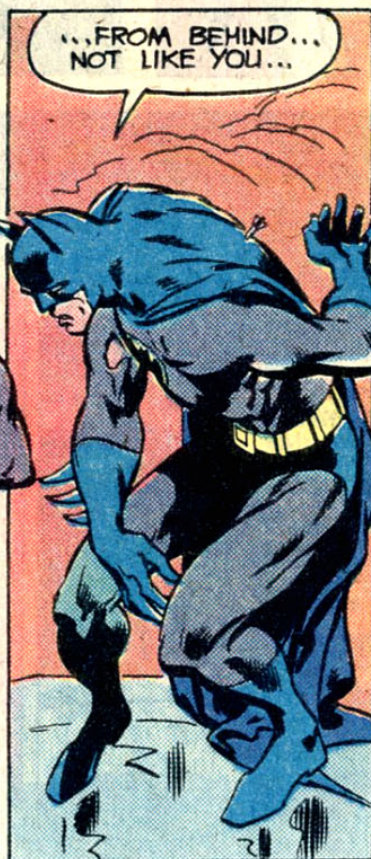
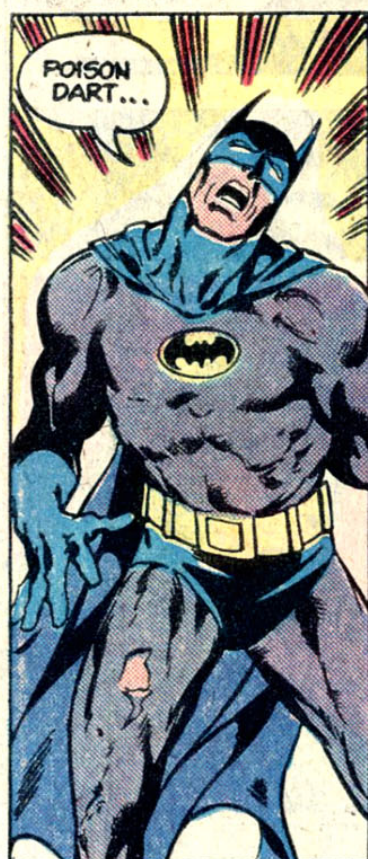
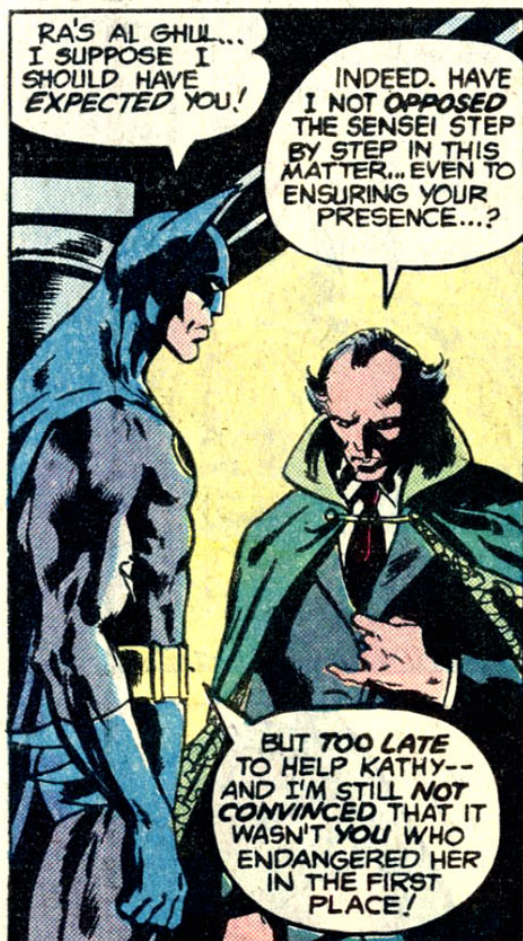
I VOWED THE SENSEI WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED... AND I'LL DIE FOR THAT VOW IF I MUST!

BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY, DETECTIVE!



YOU!





RAS AL GHUL'S REPLY IS LOST--!

FOR SECONDS EARLIER,
THE BURIED EXPLOSIVES
DETONATED --

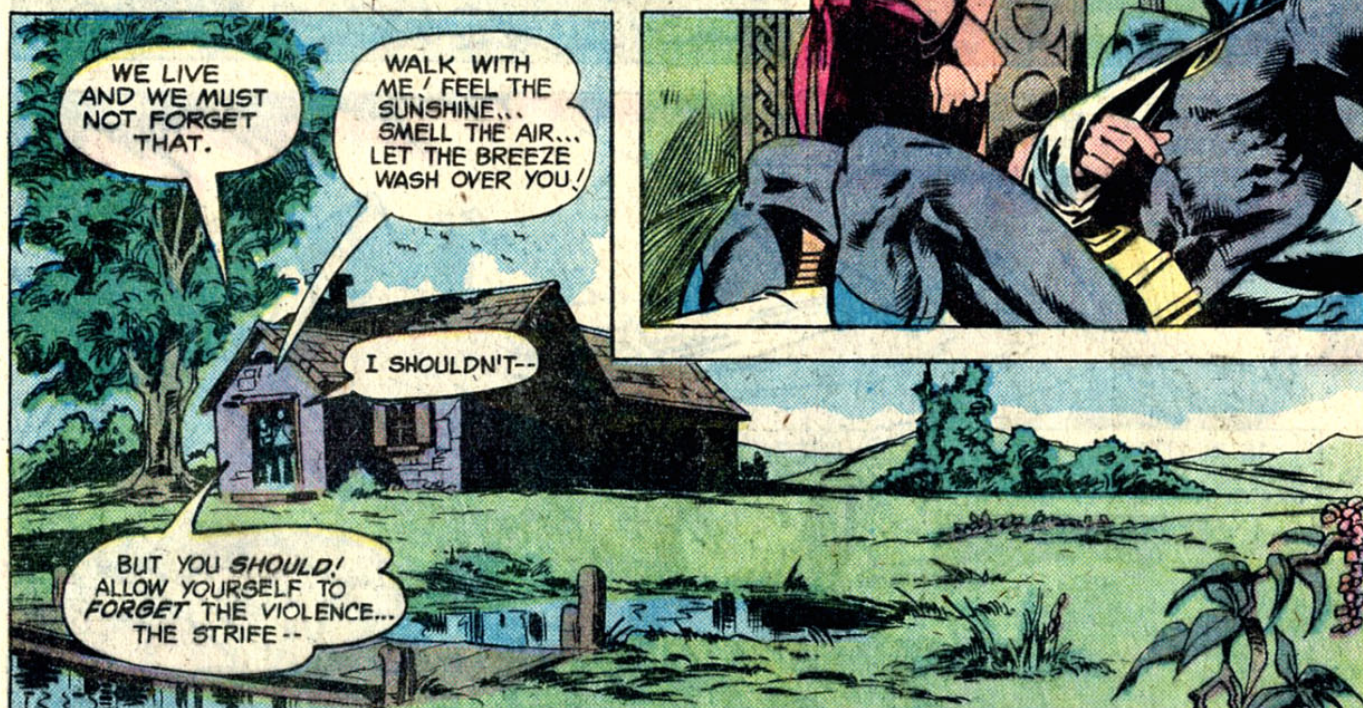
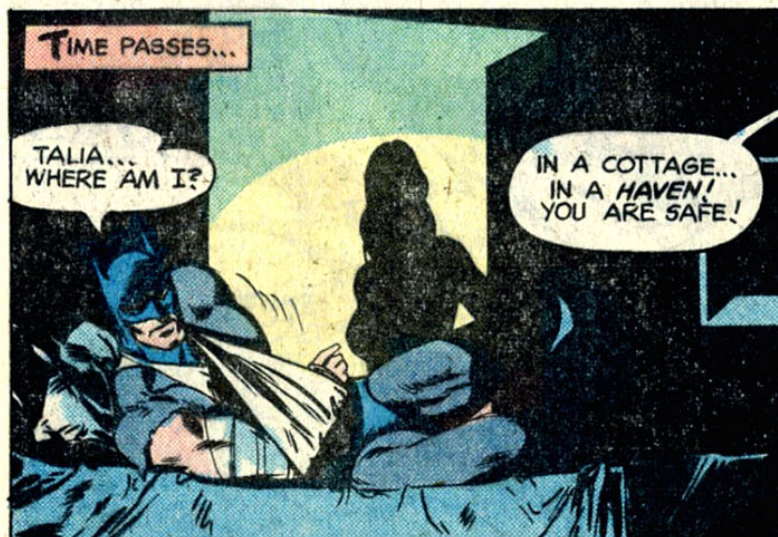
--SENDING SHOCK WAVES
SPEEDING TOWARD THE
MATTHEWS ESTATE...

SOME SAY THIS MOMENT WAS *FOREDAINED*,
THIS INSTANT OF DESTRUCTION --

--AS INEVITABLE AS THE
SIGH OF THE DYING OR THE
CRY OF THE NEWLY BORN...

INEVITABLE--OR MERELY
THE WHIM OF CHANCE...

--IT DOES NOT MATTER, NOT REALLY...



BATMAN[®]

SON OF THE DEMON[™]



BY MIKE W. BARR
AND JERRY BINGHAM

THEN:

THE EARTH
SCREAMS, LIKE
A WOMAN GIVING
BIRTH...

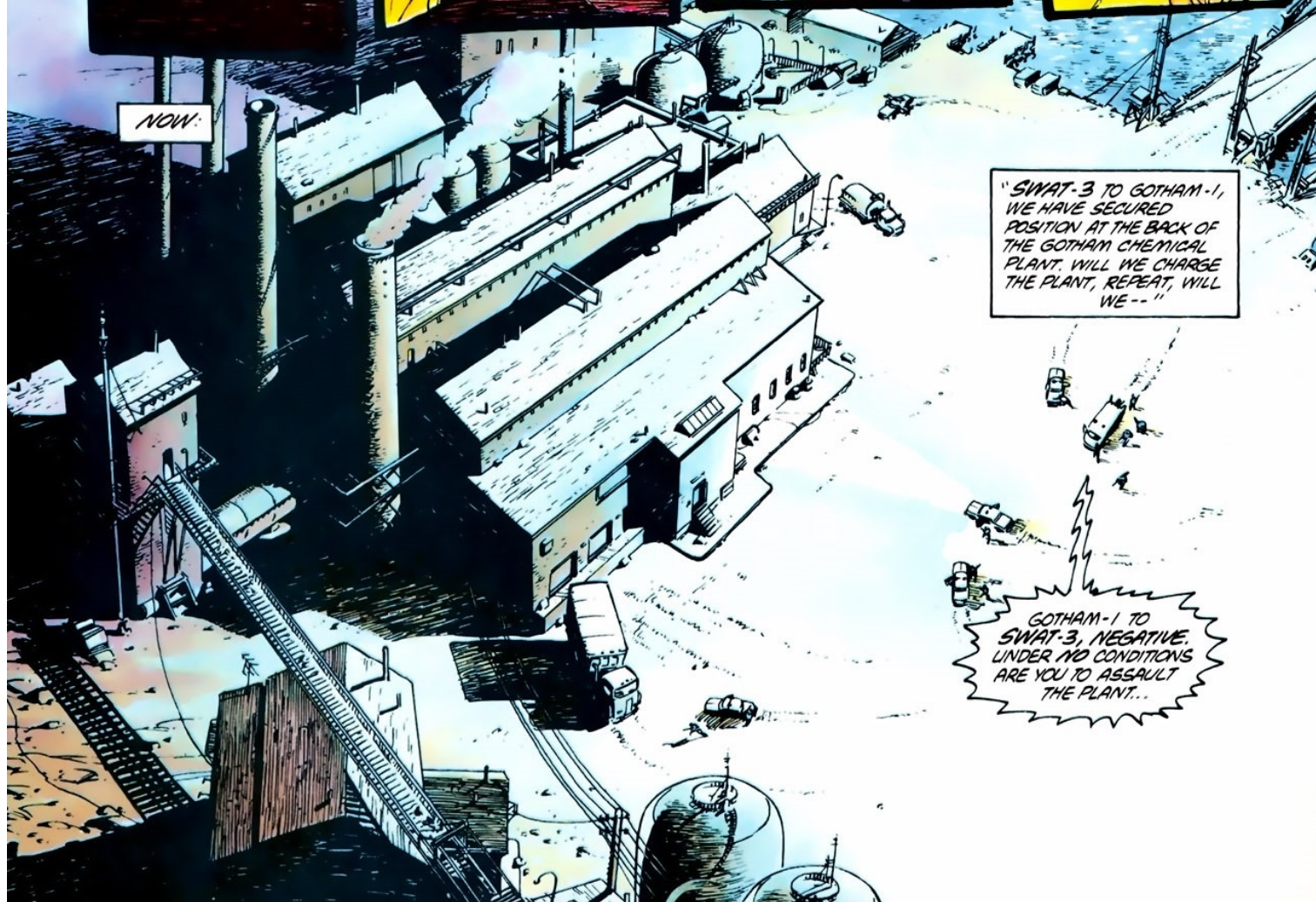


...AND THE OLD/NEWBORN
STALKS OFF, HIS
SHOULDERS HUNCHED...

...AS IF AGAINST
THE ONSLAUGHT OF
SOME COMING
STORM.



NOW:



"SWAT-3 TO GOTHAM-1,
WE HAVE SECURED
POSITION AT THE BACK OF
THE GOTHAM CHEMICAL
PLANT. WILL WE CHARGE
THE PLANT, REPEAT, WILL
WE --"

GOTHAM-1 TO
SWAT-3, NEGATIVE.
UNDER NO CONDITIONS
ARE YOU TO ASSAULT
THE PLANT...

"...THE INSURGENTS HAVE HOSTAGES,
AND ACCESS TO DEADLY CHEMICALS.
WE ARE AWAITING ARRIVAL OF
NEGOTIATING TEAMS. TAKE NO ACTION,
REPEAT, NO ACTION."

LOOKS LIKE THEY BELIEVE
US, THEY'RE STAYING AWAY.

THEY'D BETTER.
IF IT RAINS, AND WE RELEASE THAT
TOXIC GUNK INTO THE WATER SUPPLY...
WELL, THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE.

BACK IN
LINE, YOU!
NOW!

ANY WORD ON THE
SEARCH PARTY?
THEY HAVING ANY
LUCK BACK IN THE
WAREHOUSE?

NO WORD FROM
THEM YET. WE MAY
NEED TO BUY A
LITTLE MORE TIME.

DISPERSE, ALL
OF YOU. FIND THE
OBJECTIVE WHILE
WE STILL HAVE
TIME.

YOU,
C'MERE,
BITCH!

P-PLEASE,
DON'T...!

LISTEN UP, COPS!
I GOTTA FAT LADY
HERE! YOU TRY
ANYTHING, SHE
BUYS IT! YOU
FOLLOW?

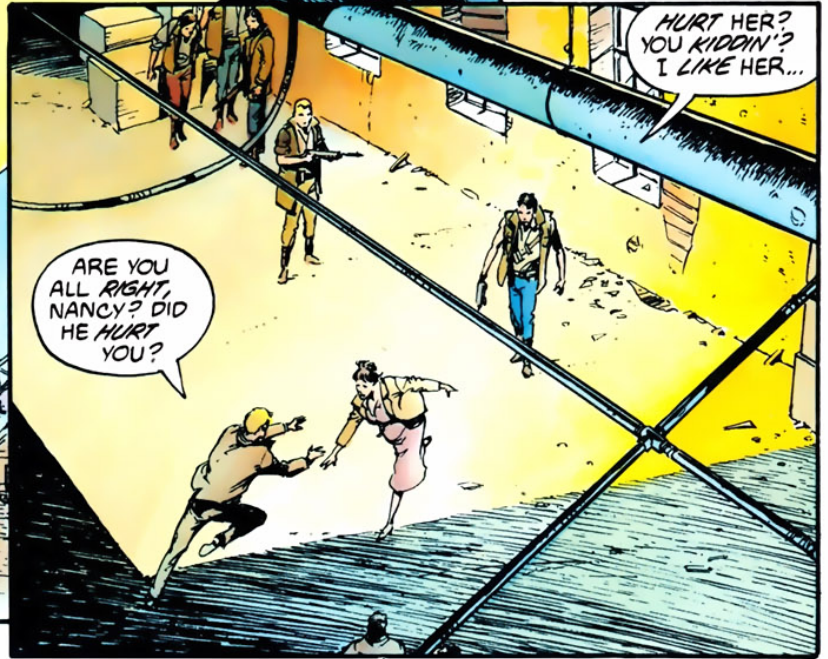
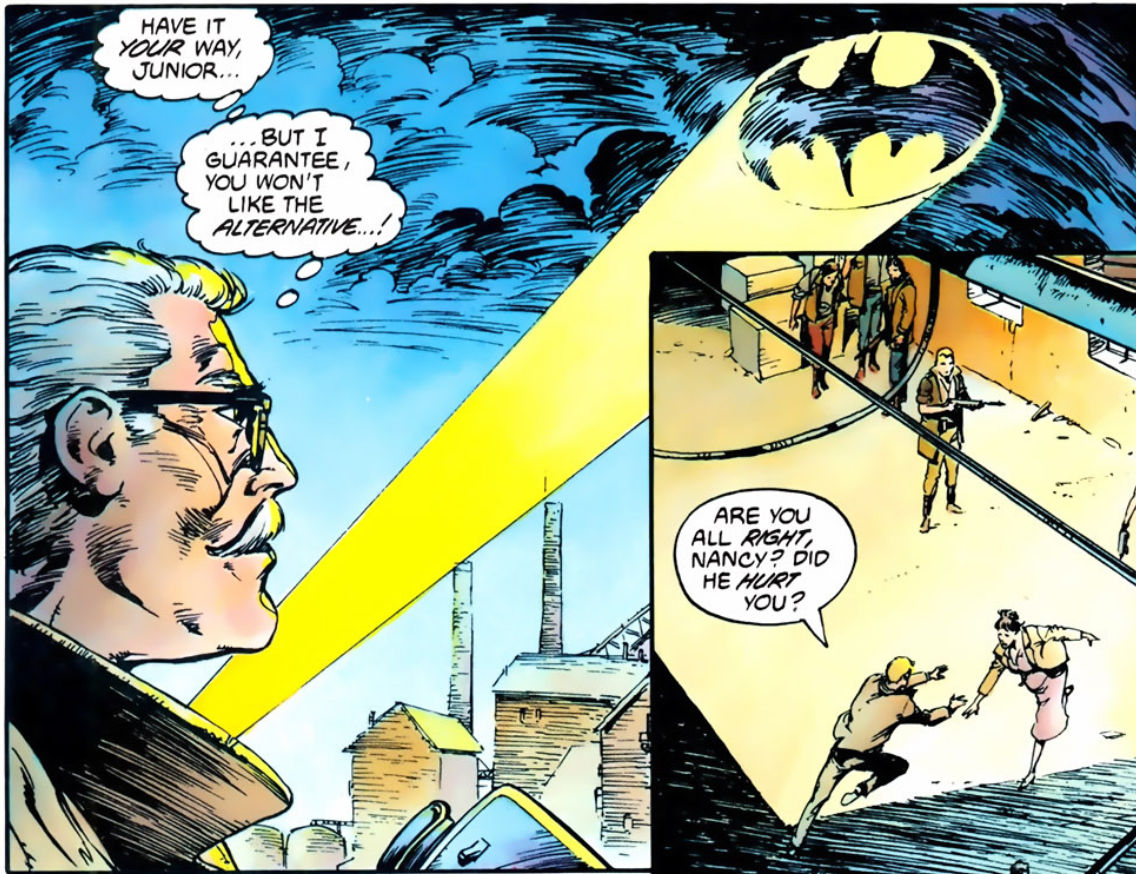
WELL?

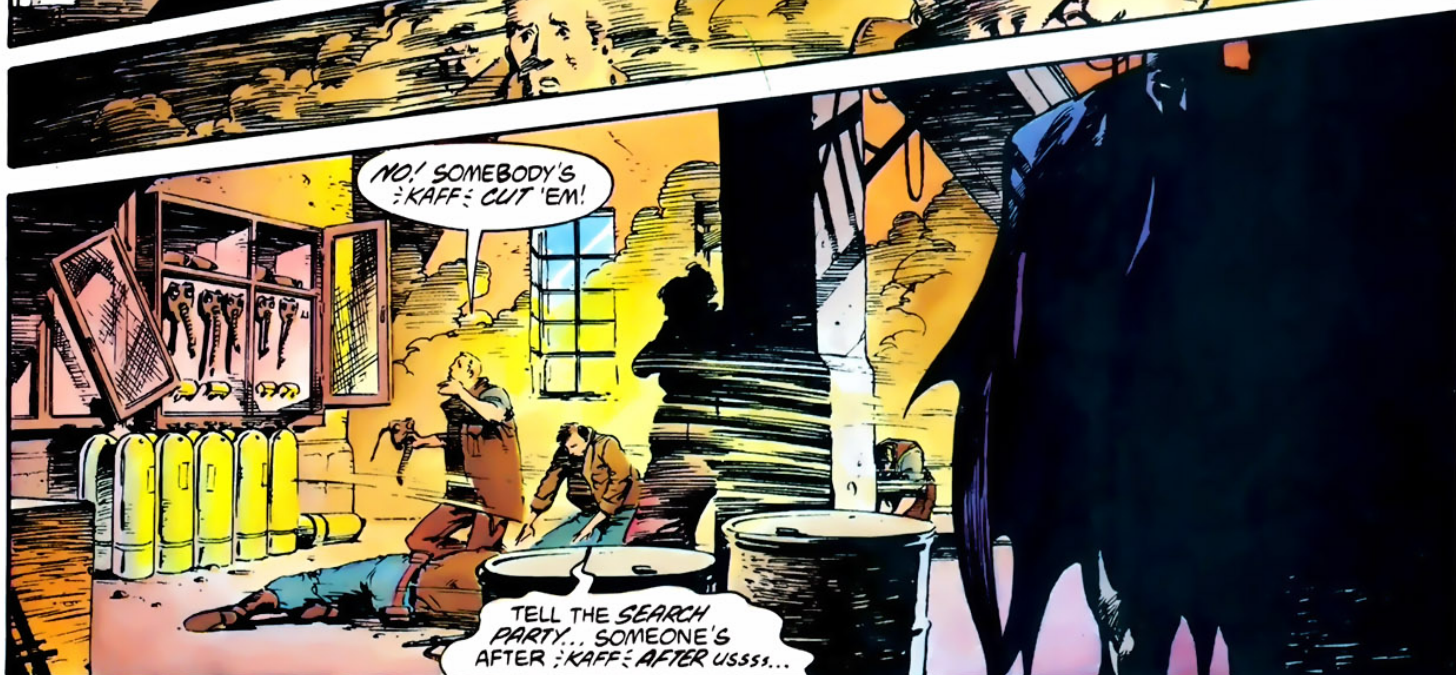
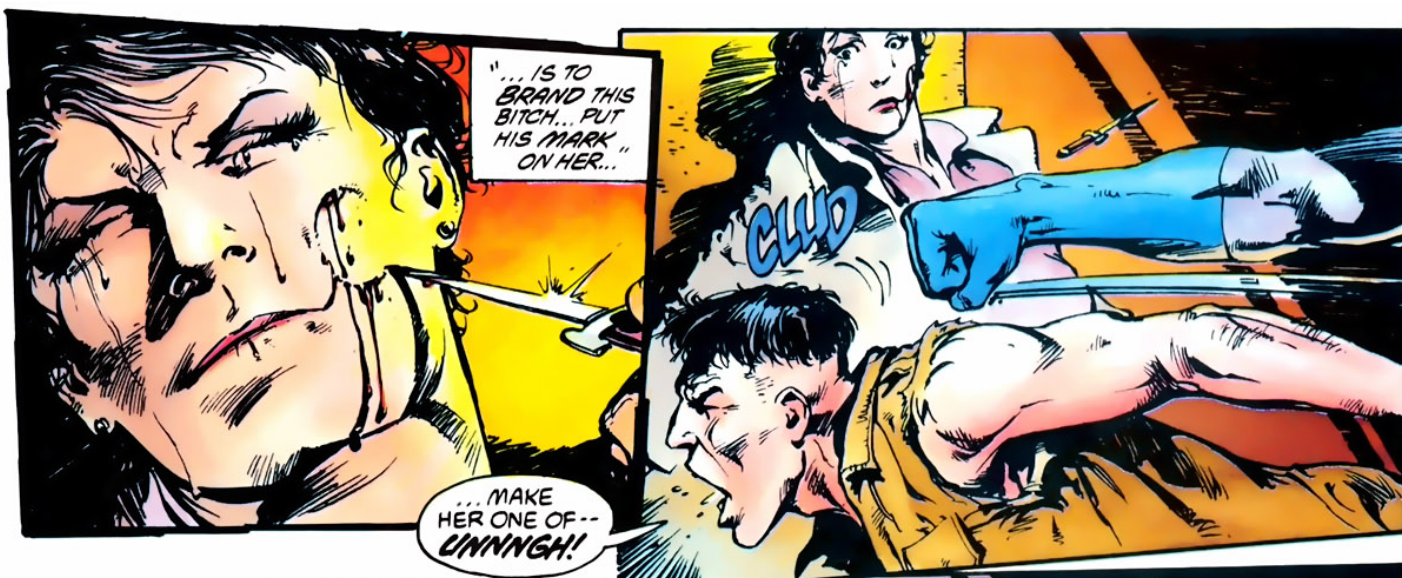
MARK, WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO...?

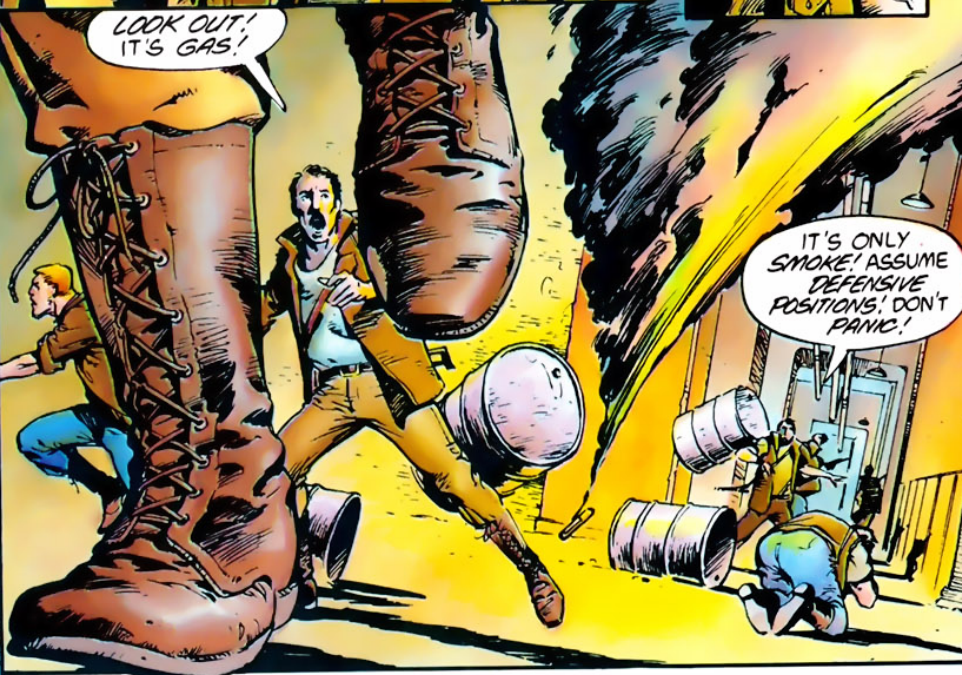
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT, NANCY,
KEEP CALM. THINK
OF THE BABY--

PLEASE, THERE IS
NO NEED TO HARM
THE HOSTAGES!
PROFESSIONAL
NEGOTIATORS
ARE ON THEIR
WAY!

"SCREW YOUR
'NEGOTIATORS',
MAN!"







"...IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST ONE
MAN..."



"...WE CAN
HANDLE HIM!
STAY CALM..."



"REMEMBER YOUR
PARTNER..."

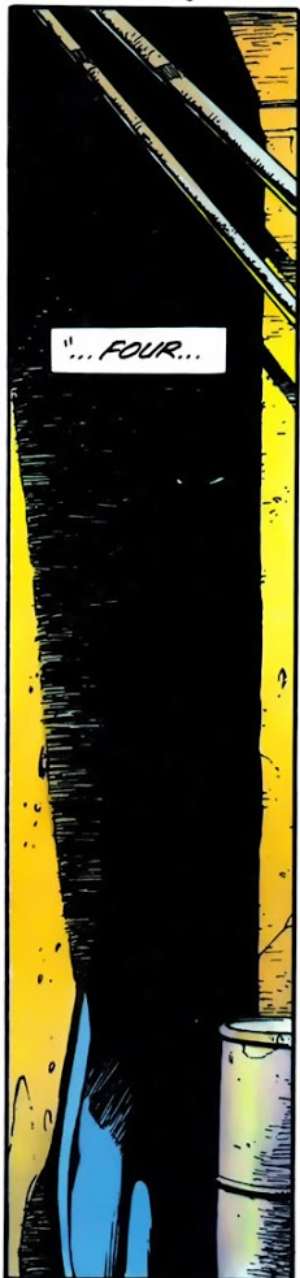


"... ALWAYS KEEP
HIM IN VIEW..."

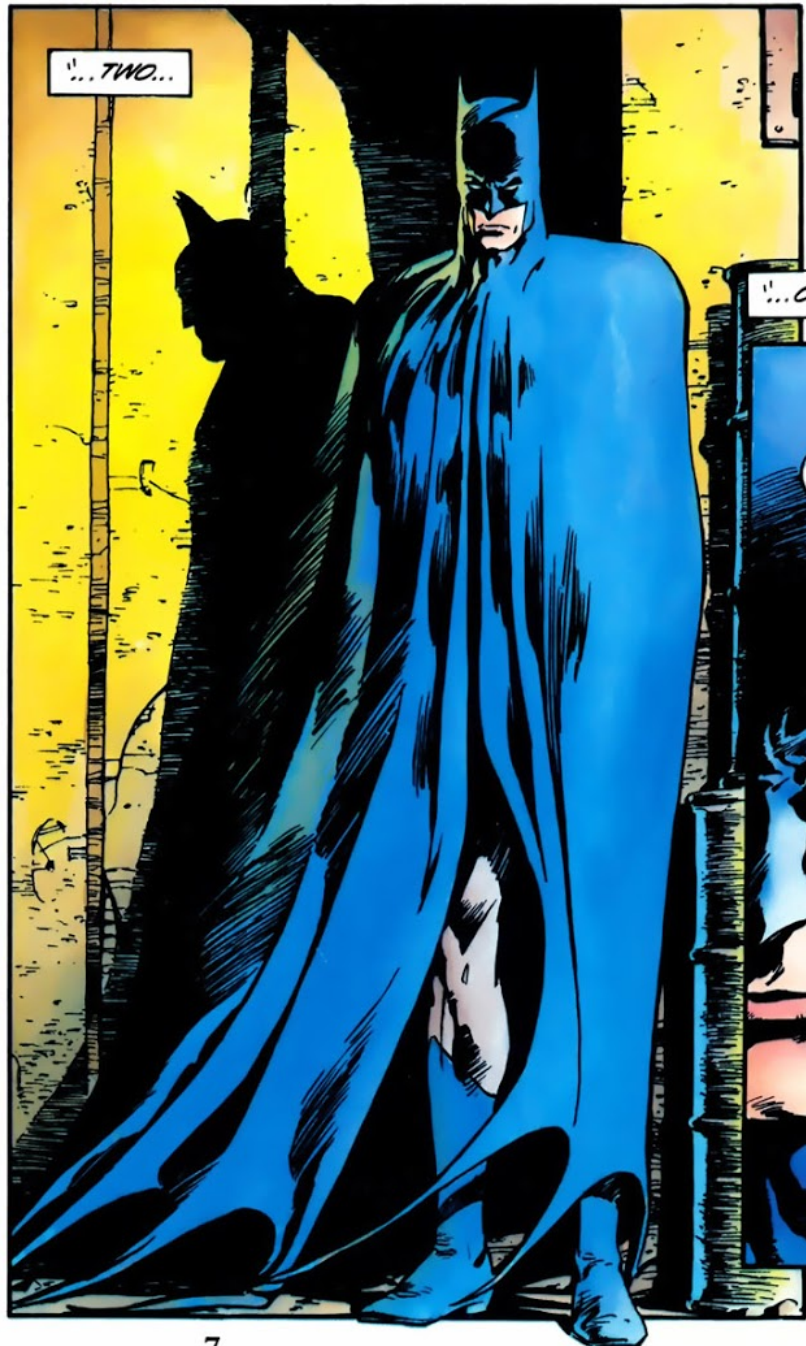


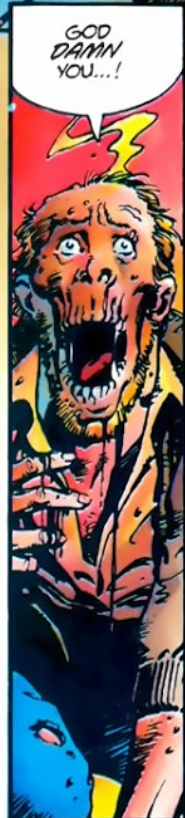
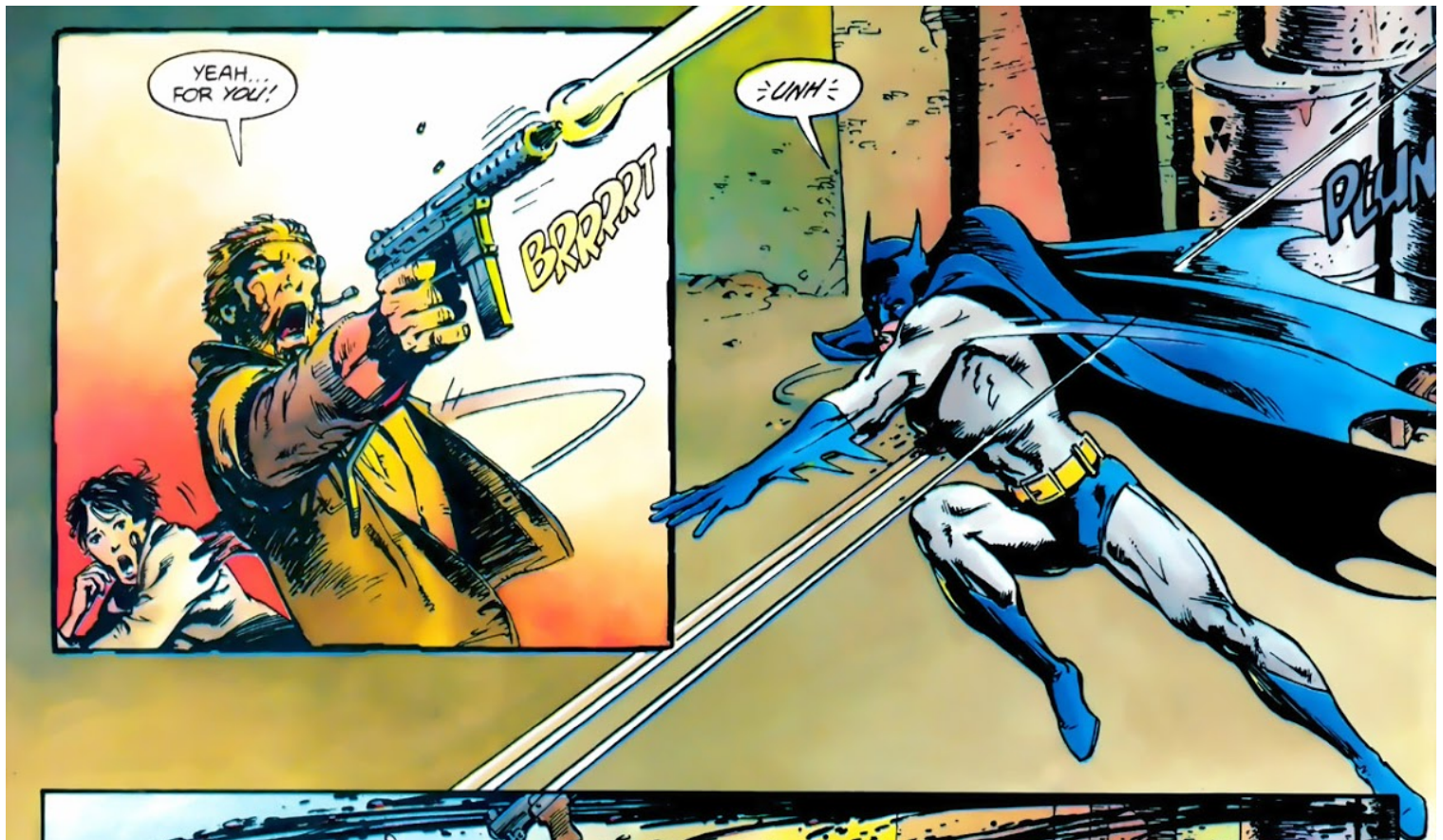
HE'S ONE
MAN, ONLY--

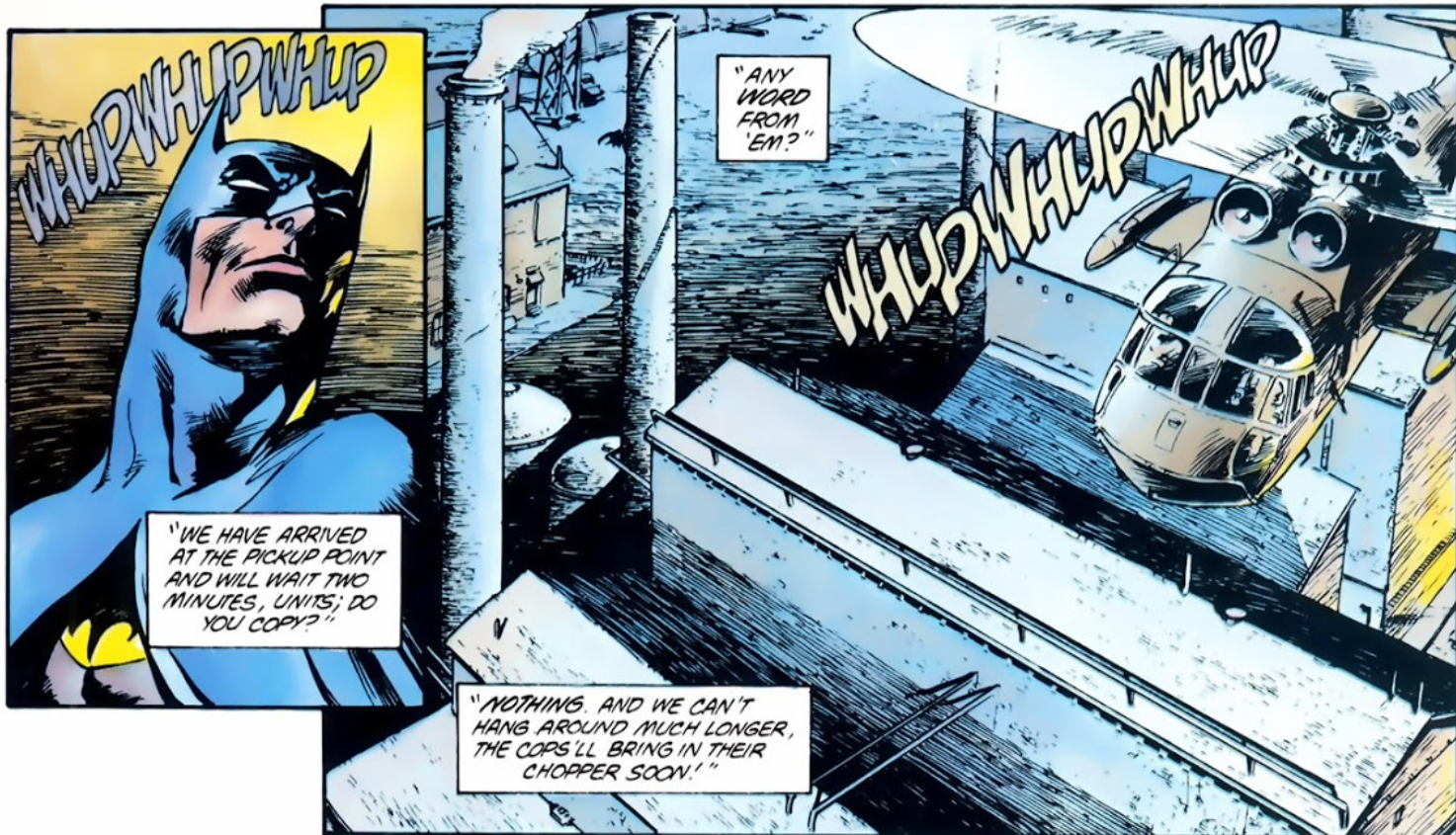
JESUS...!



"... THREE..."



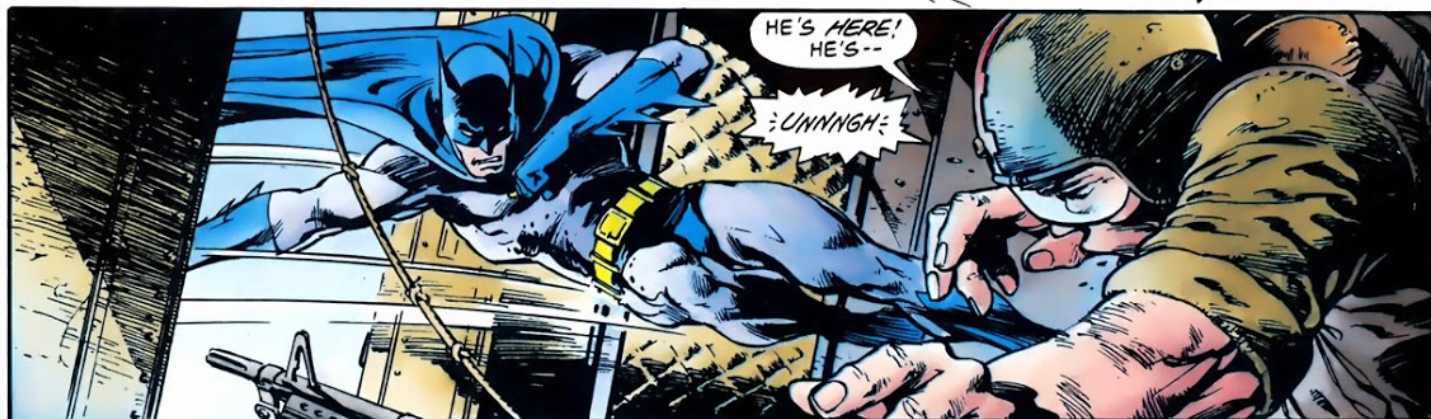




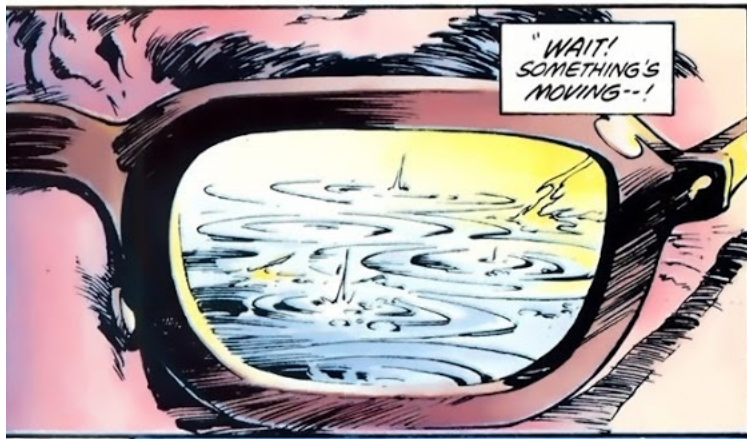


STOP IT, YOU TWO! SAVE THAT FOR--

THERE! GET HIM BEFORE HE--





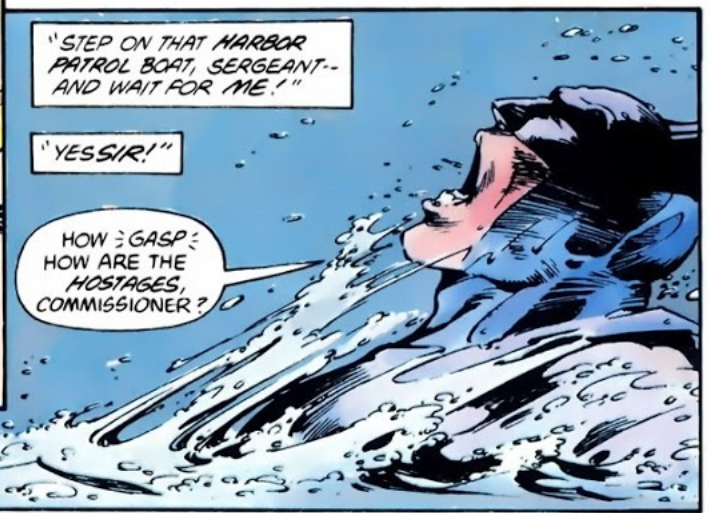


"WAIT!
SOMETHING'S
MOVING--!"

"STEP ON THAT HARBOR
PATROL BOAT, SERGEANT--
AND WAIT FOR ME!"

"YESSIR!"

HOW ^{GASP}
HOW ARE THE
HOSTAGES,
COMMISSIONER?



"FINE, BATMAN...
GOOD WORK."

"NOT GOOD ENOUGH, OR
I WOULD HAVE FOUND THEIR
FLIGHT PLANS. LET'S GET
BACK, I WANT A CRACK AT
THOSE PRISONERS."



AND WHAT SEEMS
TO BE THE TROUBLE
WITH YOU?

I'M SHOT I'M
BLEEDING

WELL, LET'S HAVE A LOOK
AND SEE WHAT WE --

"THAT MAN CAN
WAIT, DOCTOR."

I BEG
YOUR--



I SAID,
HE CAN
WAIT--

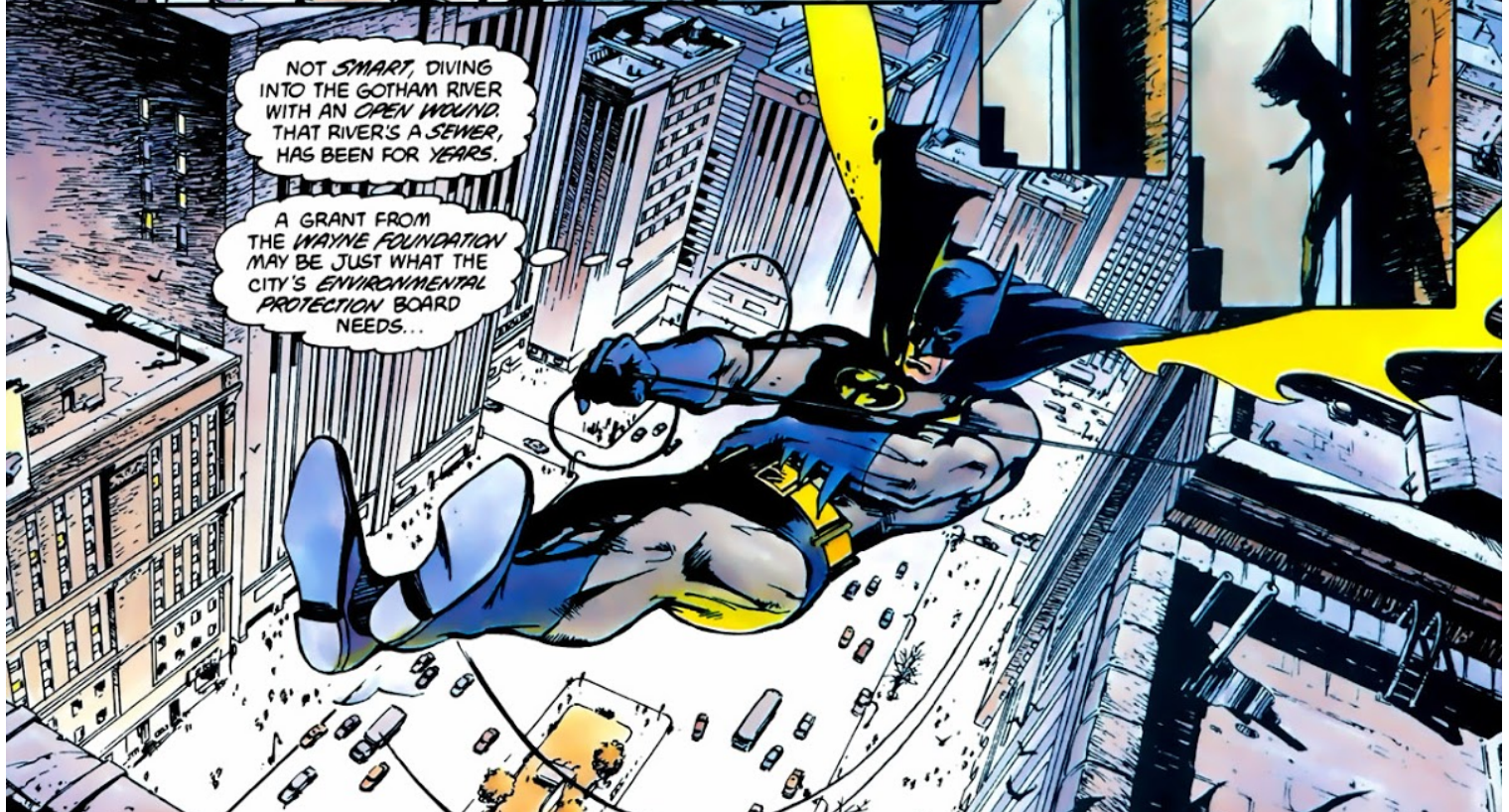


HE--HE HAS
SOME RIGHTS,
YOU KNOW.

"THAT WOMAN
HAS MORE."

NO NEED TO
BE SO SNOTTY.







... AND EVERY TIME HIS EYES CLOSE, HE WATCHES HIS PARENTS DIE.

DAD?
MOM?

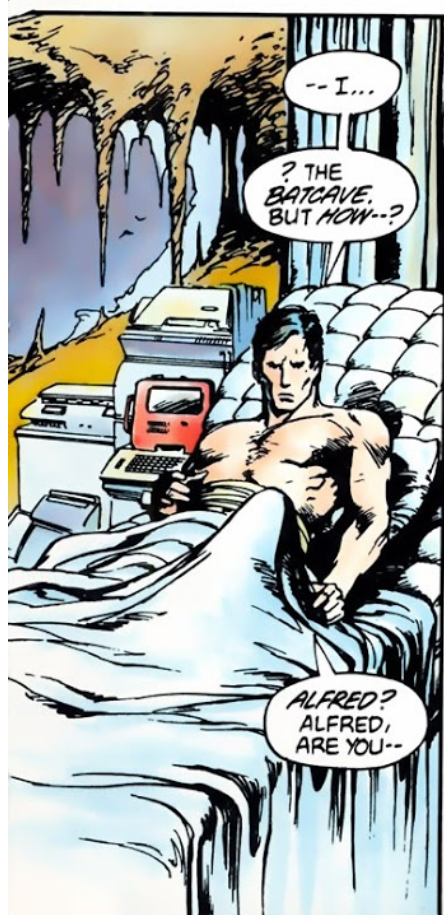
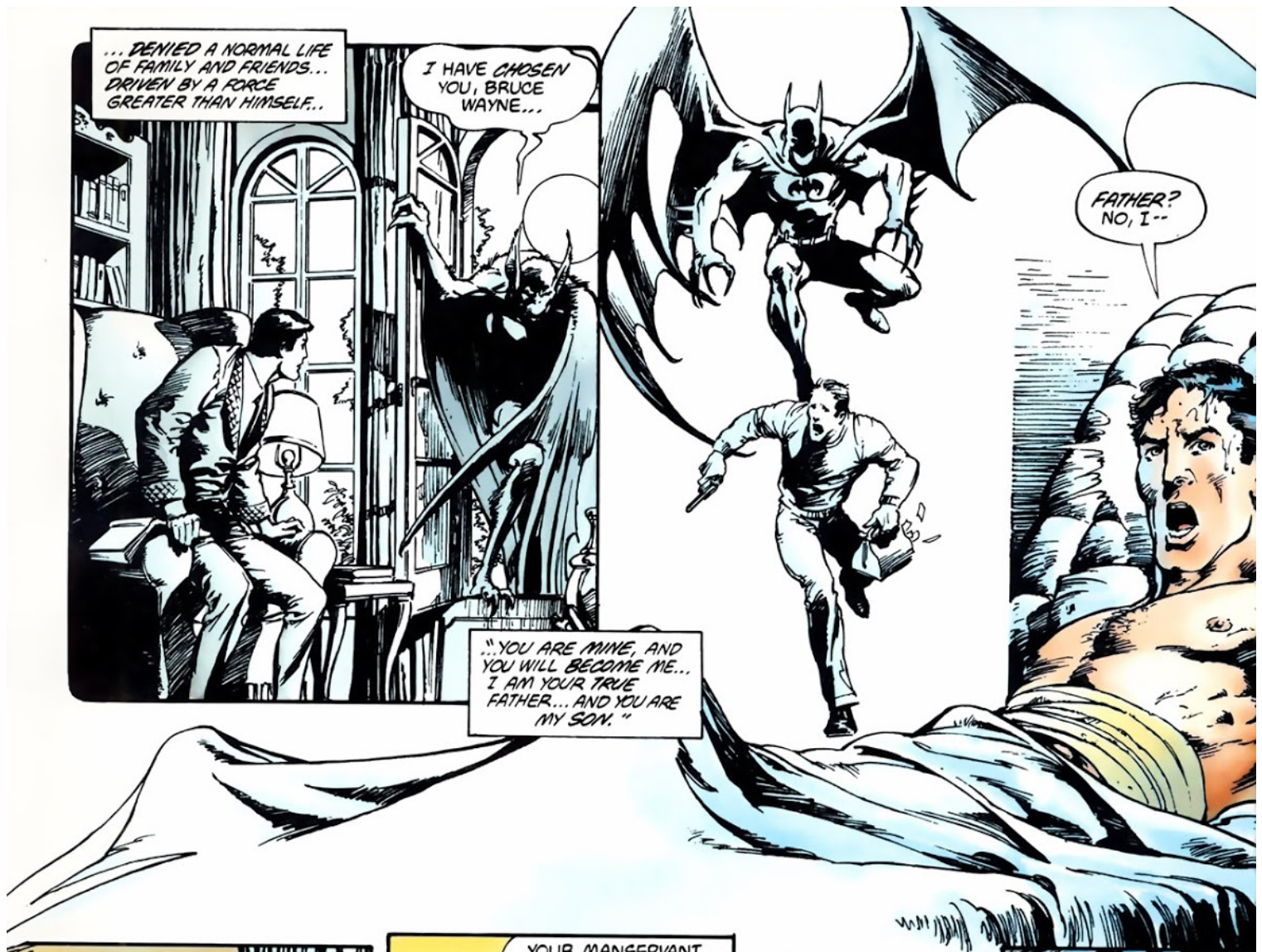
THIS'LL SHUT YOU UP!

BANG

I SWEAR :SNIFF:
I'LL SPEND MY LIFE
MAKING SURE NO
ONE HAS TO SUFFER
LIKE YOU DID...

... OR LIKE HE
SUFFERED...
GROWING UP
ALONE...







"VERY WELL. ALL THE TERRORISTS CAPTURED BORE THE SAME MARK-- THE LETTER 'Q' CARVED INTO THEIR FLESH. WE THINK THEY WORK FOR A MAN NAMED QAYIN--"



A TERRORIST AND MURDERER... LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CAIN.



"YES. QAYIN IS A REAL MYSTERY MAN, HE'S NEVER BEEN CAPTURED, NOT EVEN PHOTOGRAPHED. INTERPOL HAS LINKED QAYIN WITH THIS MAN--"

GENERAL YOSSID OF GOLATIA. HE RECENTLY SIGNED A PACT WITH AMERICA AFTER YEARS OF COURTING BOTH THE USA AND THE USSR. DO YOU THINK HE AND QAYIN ARE ALLIES?



IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER. YOSSID TOOK OVER GOLATIA TEN YEARS AGO, IN A BLOODY COUP, AND HAS REMAINED RULER EVER SINCE.

QAYIN MAY HAVE A BASE SOMEWHERE IN GOLATIA, WITH YOSSID'S BLESSING.

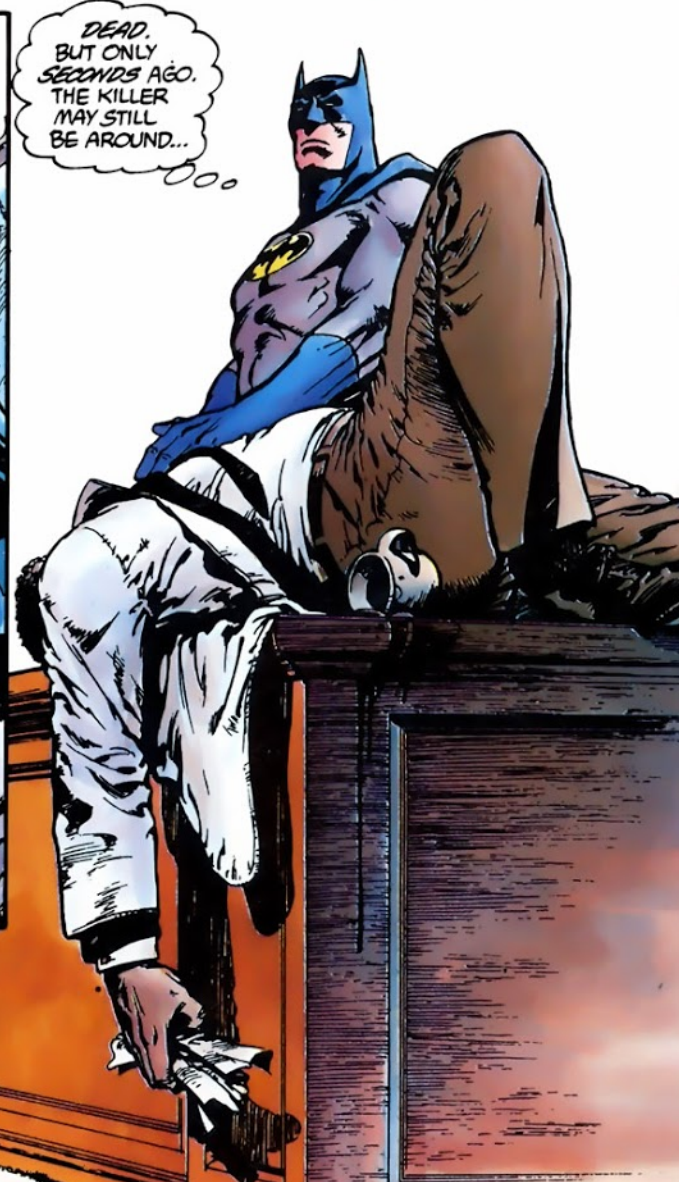
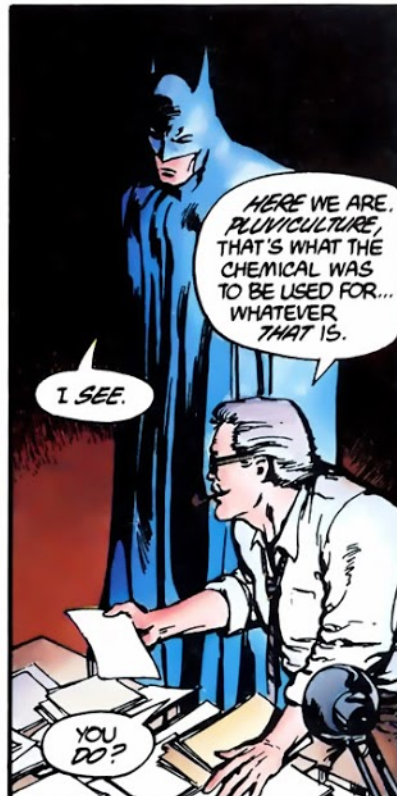


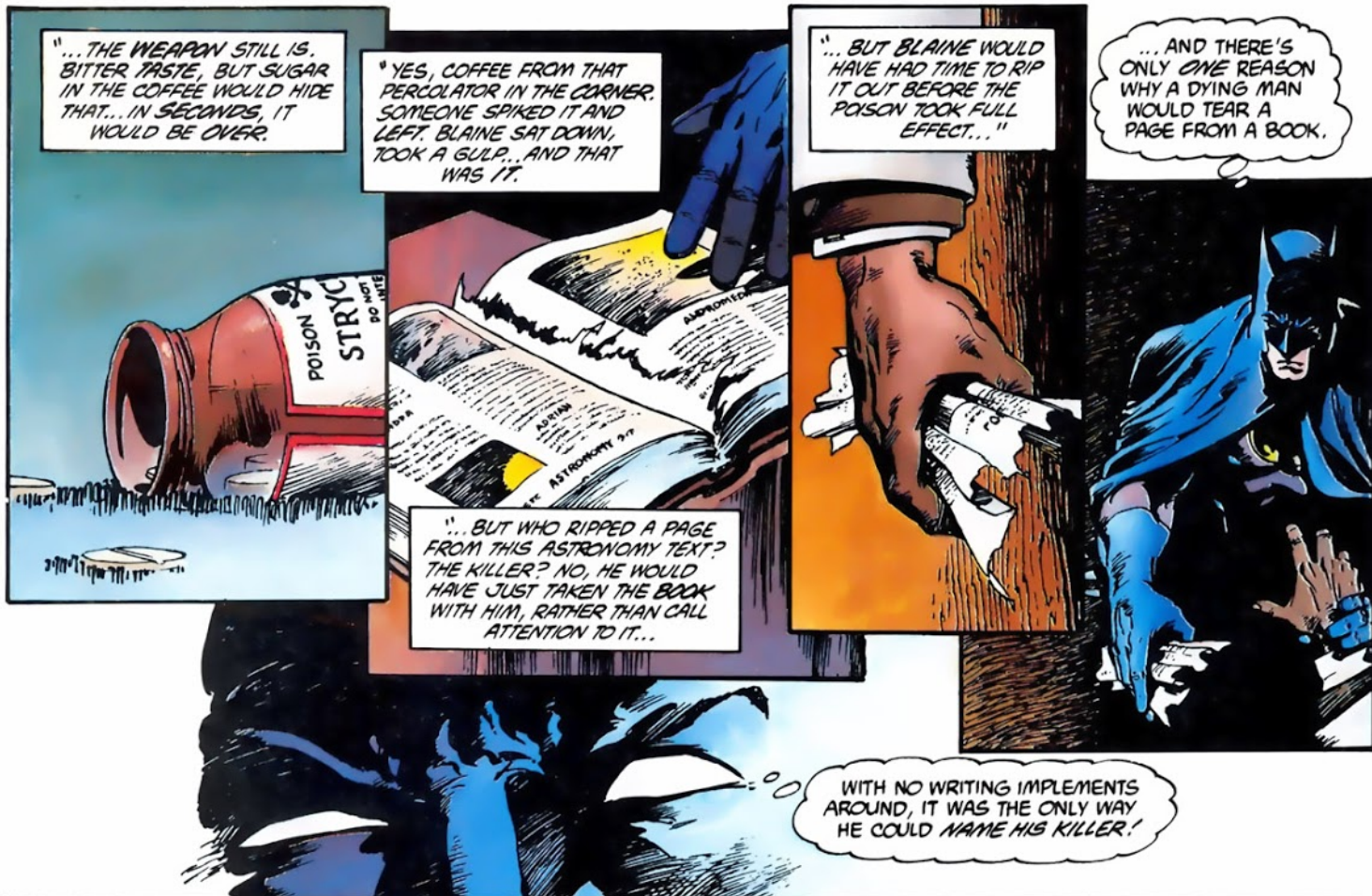
SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO FIND HIM AND STOP HIM.

I KNOW.

WHAT'S THE WORD ON THOSE BARRELS QAYIN'S MEN WERE TRYING TO HEIST, COMMISSIONER? WHAT WAS IN THEM?









"WHO ARE YOU?"

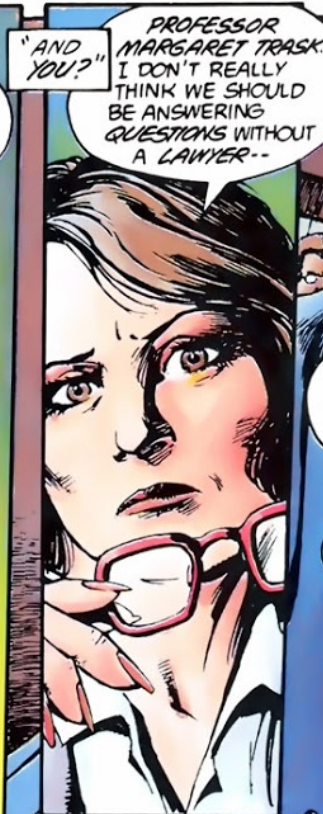
PEARSON, JOHN
PEARSON. I'M HARRIS'
PARTNER. HE HANDLES
THE LAB SCIENCE, AND
I HANDLE THE COMPUTER
PROGRAMMING.



"YOU'RE BLAINE'S
SON."

HARRIS BLAINE, JR....I-I
WAS DAD'S ASSISTANT.
HE WAS TRAINING ME TO
TAKE HIS PLACE SOME...
SOMEDAY...

OH,
DAD...



"AND
YOU?"

PROFESSOR
MARGARET TRASK.
I DON'T REALLY
THINK WE SHOULD
BE ANSWERING
QUESTIONS WITHOUT
A LAWYER--

PROBABLY NOT.
WHAT WERE YOU
WORKING ON,
PROFESSOR?

I WAS WORKING WITH
DR. BLAINE -- SENIOR--
ON HIS PLUVICULTURE
EXPERIMENTS.



HAS ANYTHING
IN HERE BEEN
DISTURBED? ARE
HIS NOTES STILL
HERE?

LET ME
CHECK...



"...YES, HERE
THEY ARE."

"THEN HIS KILLER
DIDN'T TAKE
THEM."

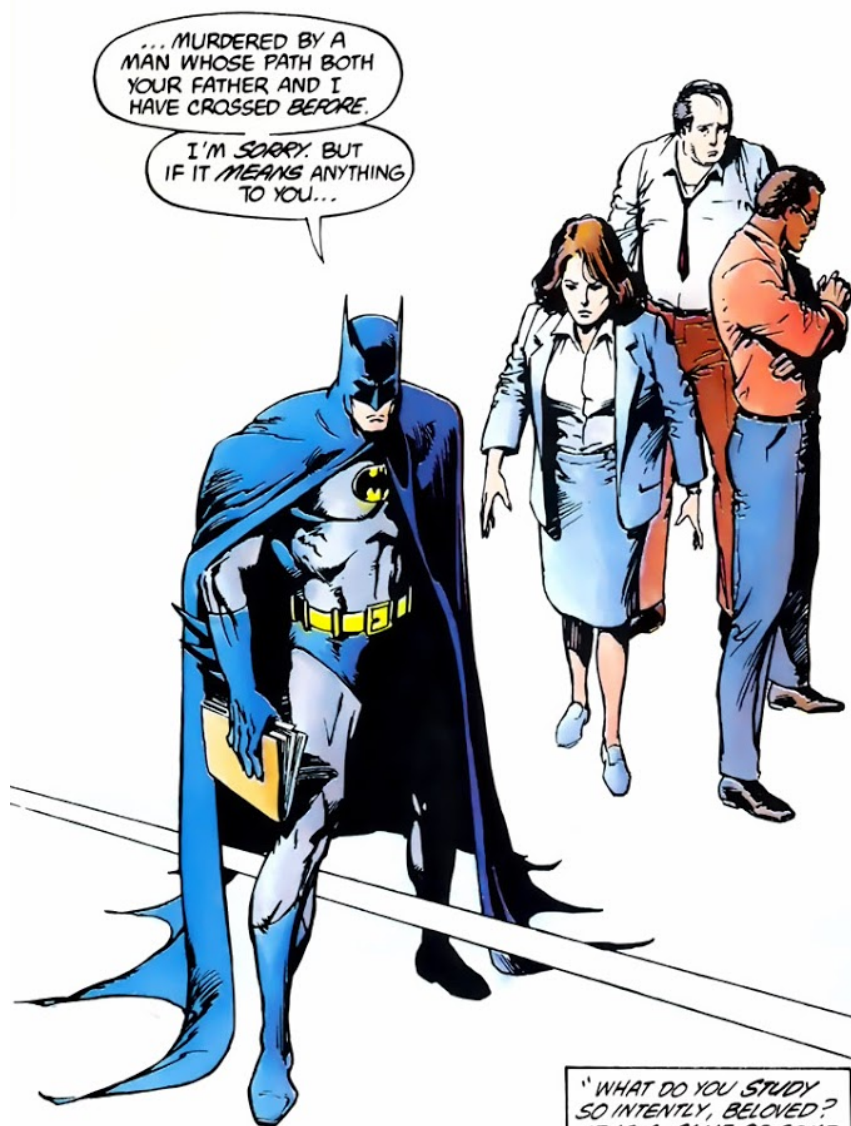


KILLER? HE WASN'T
MURDERED. HIS OFFICE
WAS LOCKED FROM THE
INSIDE. HE MUST HAVE...
MUST HAVE...

NO! MY FATHER
NEVER WOULD
HAVE KILLED
HIMSELF!

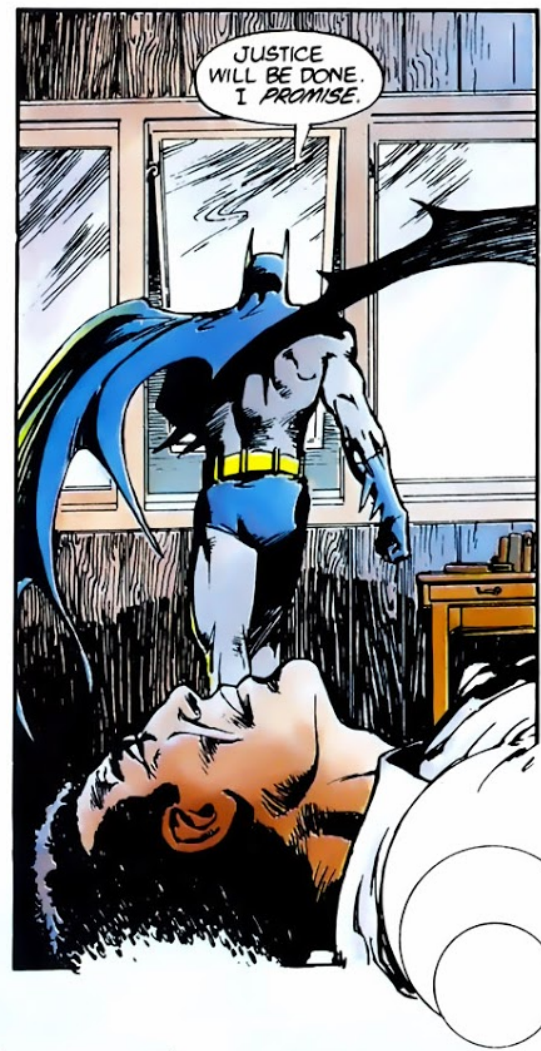
BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOING
BADLY FOR US, HARRIS...
YOUR FATHER WAS TAKING
THAT VERY HARD...

THE KILLER WANTED
HIS CRIME TO LOOK
LIKE A SUICIDE, BUT
YOUR FATHER WAS
MURDERED, MR.
BLAINE...



... MURDERED BY A MAN WHOSE PATH BOTH YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE CROSSED BEFORE.

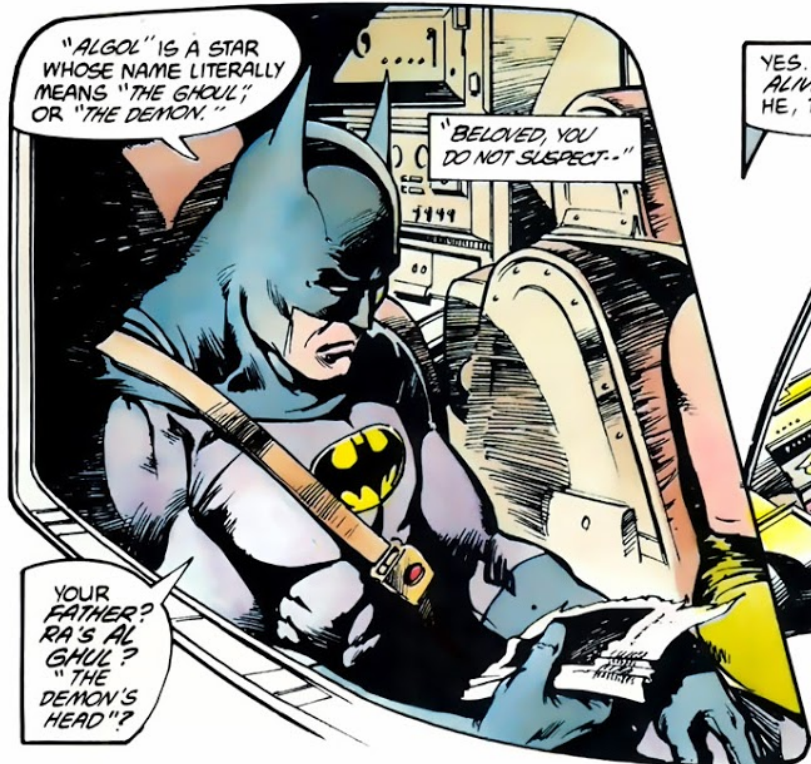
I'M SORRY, BUT IF IT MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU...



JUSTICE WILL BE DONE. I PROMISE.

"WHAT DO YOU STUDY SO INTENTLY, BELOVED? IT IS A CLUE OF SOME SORT?"

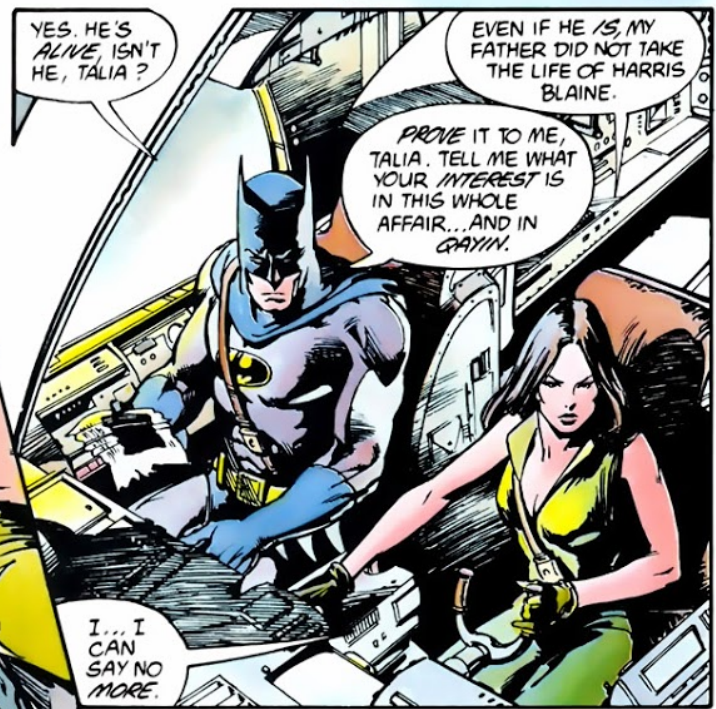
"IT IS, TALIA..."



"ALGOL" IS A STAR WHOSE NAME LITERALLY MEANS "THE GHOUL" OR "THE DEMON."

"BELOVED, YOU DO NOT SUSPECT..."

YOUR FATHER? RA'S AL GHUL? "THE DEMON'S HEAD"?



YES, HE'S ALIVE, ISN'T HE, TALIA?

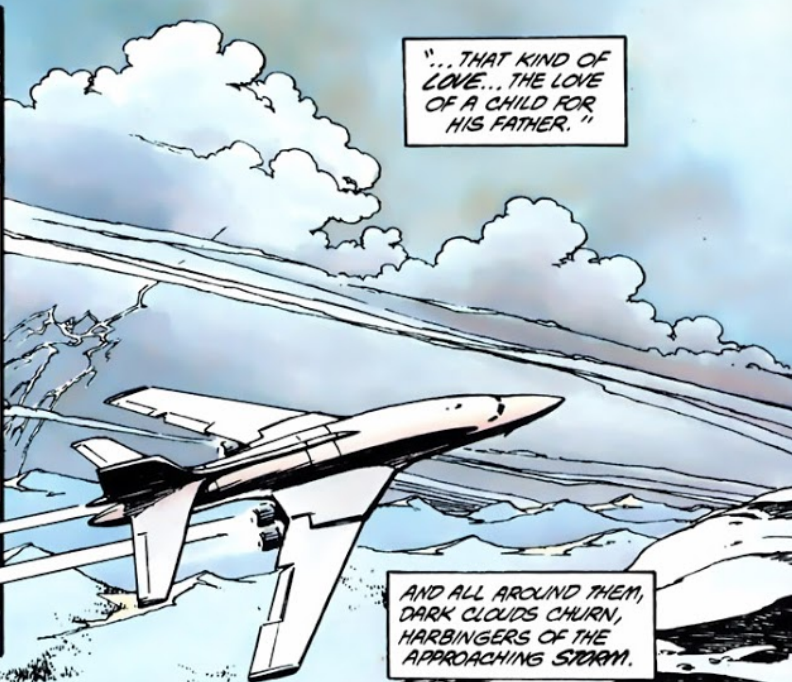
EVEN IF HE IS, MY FATHER DID NOT TAKE THE LIFE OF HARRIS BLAINE.

PROVE IT TO ME, TALIA. TELL ME WHAT YOUR INTEREST IS IN THIS WHOLE AFFAIR... AND IN CAYIN.

I... I CAN SAY NO MORE.

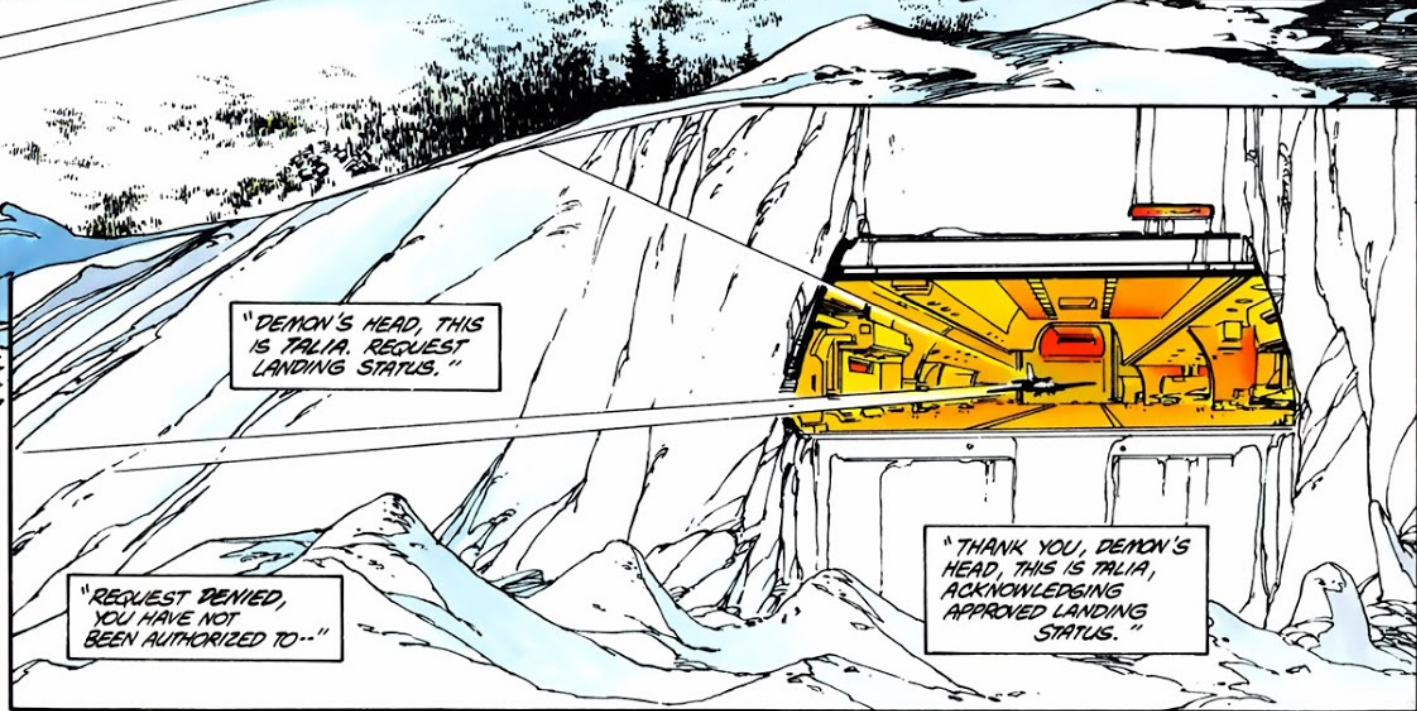


I UNDERSTAND...
I HOPE SOMEDAY
I'LL EXPERIENCE
THAT KIND OF
RESPECT, THAT
KIND OF
LOYALTY...



"...THAT KIND OF
LOVE... THE LOVE
OF A CHILD FOR
HIS FATHER."

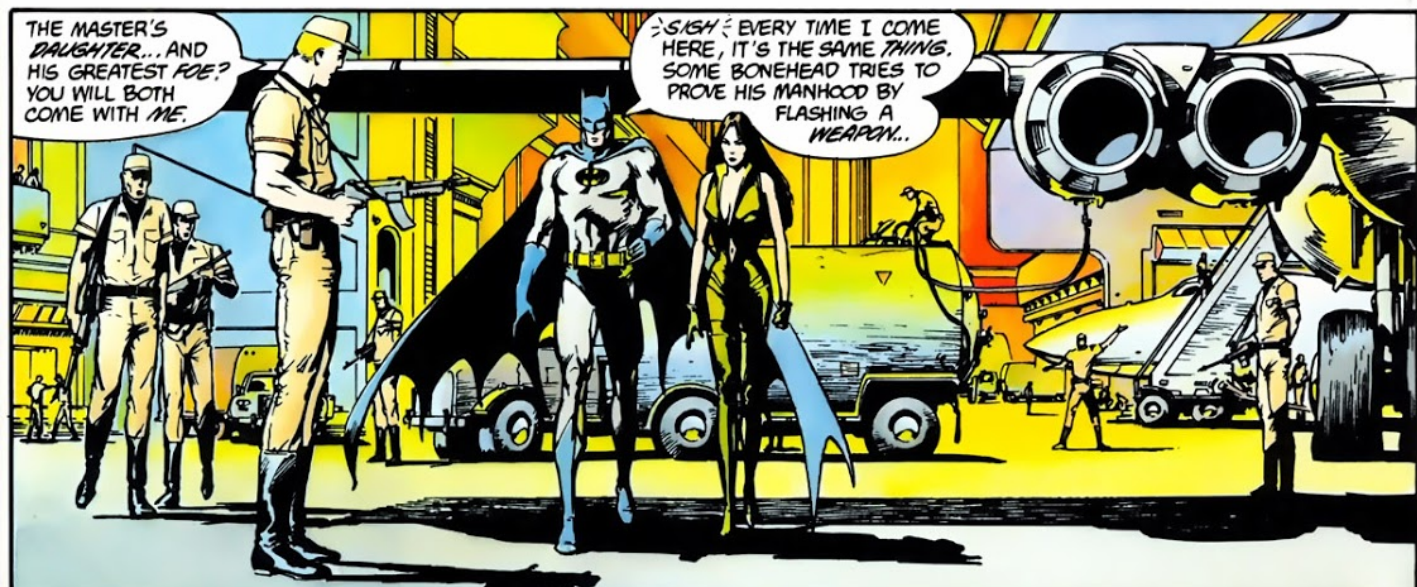
AND ALL AROUND THEM,
DARK CLOUDS CHURN,
HARBINGERS OF THE
APPROACHING STORM.



"DEMON'S HEAD, THIS
IS TALIA. REQUEST
LANDING STATUS."

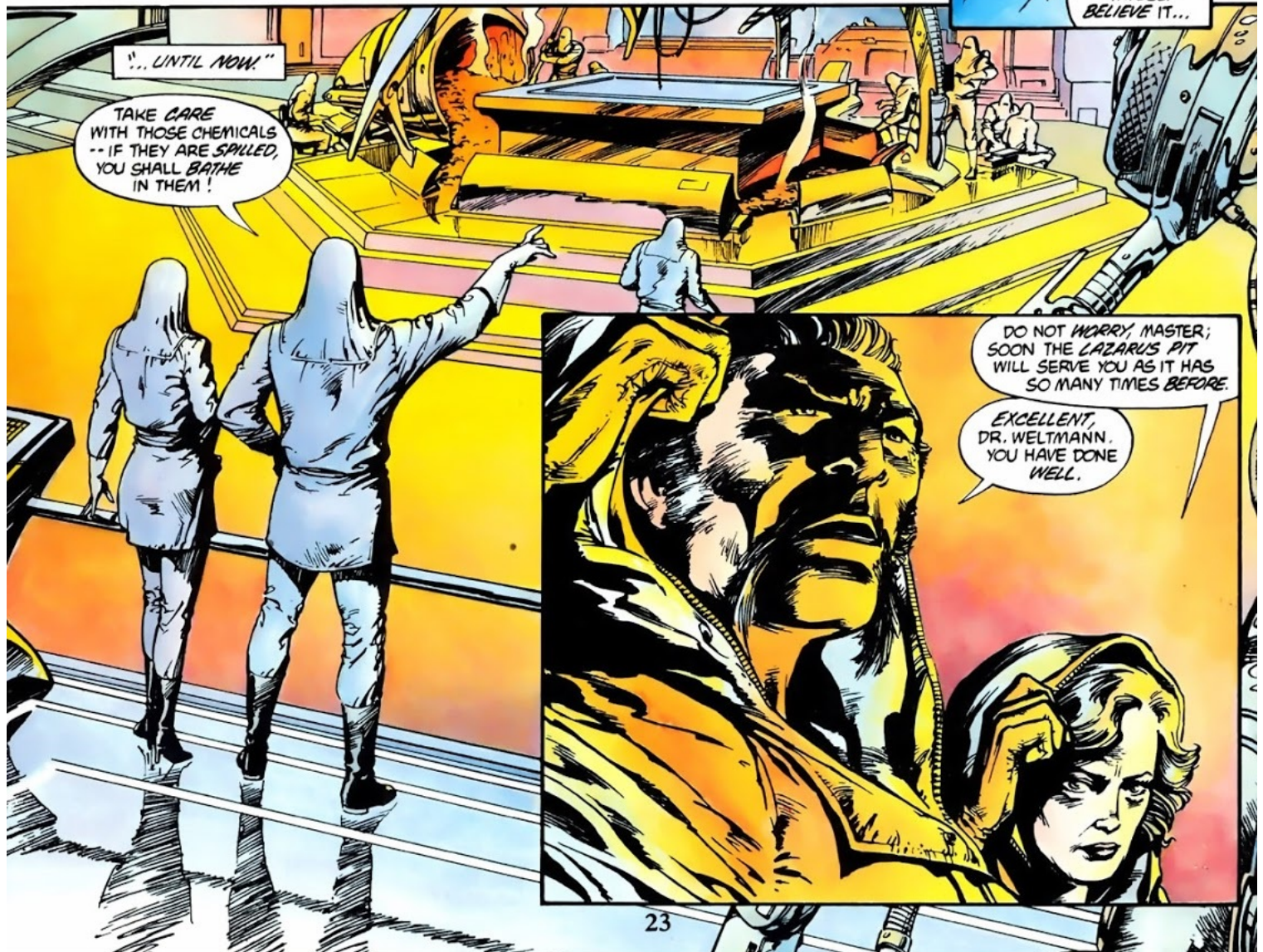
"REQUEST DENIED,
YOU HAVE NOT
BEEN AUTHORIZED TO..."

"THANK YOU, DEMON'S
HEAD, THIS IS TALIA,
ACKNOWLEDGING
APPROVED LANDING
STATUS."



THE MASTER'S
DAUGHTER... AND
HIS GREATEST FOE?
YOU WILL BOTH
COME WITH ME.

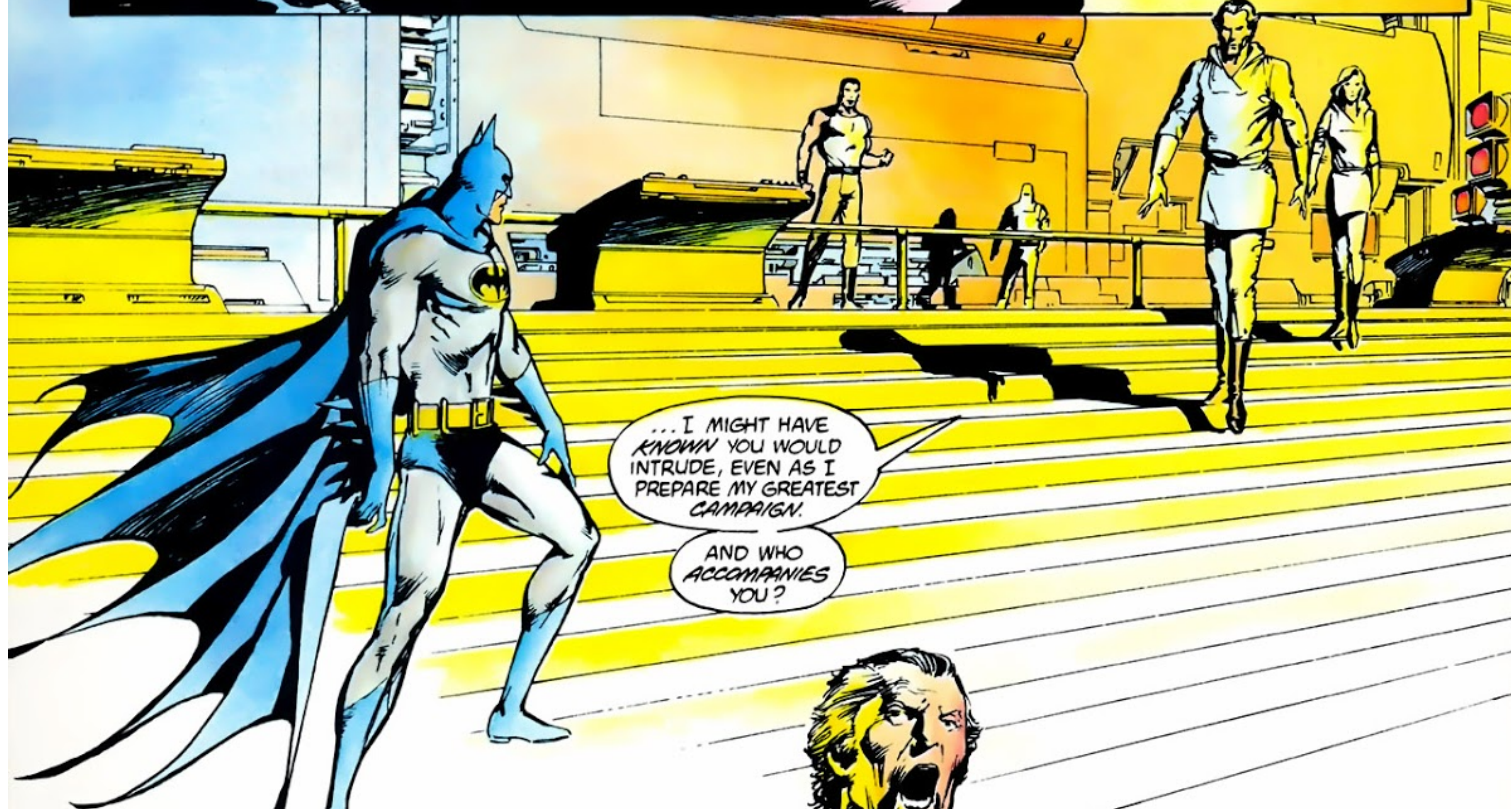
"SIGH" EVERY TIME I COME
HERE, IT'S THE SAME THING.
SOME BONEHEAD TRIES TO
PROVE HIS MANHOOD BY
FLASHING A
WEAPON...





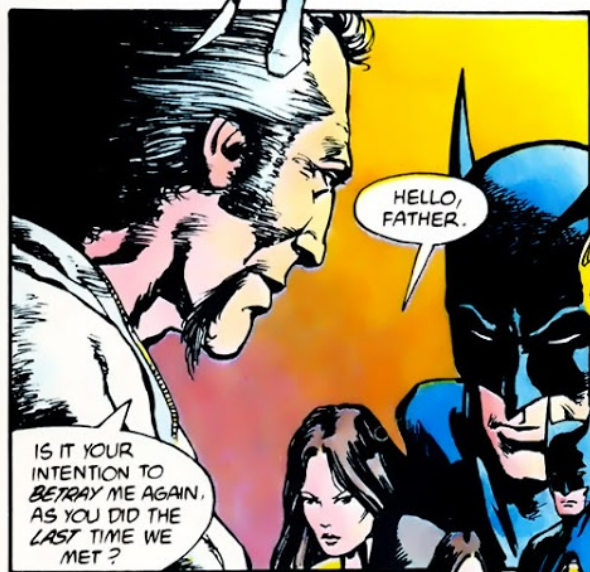
"RA'S"

WHO--?
AH, THE
DETECTIVE...



... I MIGHT HAVE
KNOWN YOU WOULD
INTRUDE, EVEN AS I
PREPARE MY GREATEST
CAMPAIGN.

AND WHO
ACCOMPANIES
YOU?



HELLO,
FATHER.

IS IT YOUR
INTENTION TO
BETRAY ME AGAIN,
AS YOU DID THE
LAST TIME WE
MET?

I WOULD NOT
HOPE TO... BUT I
DO WHAT I MUST,
FATHER, AS DO
YOU.



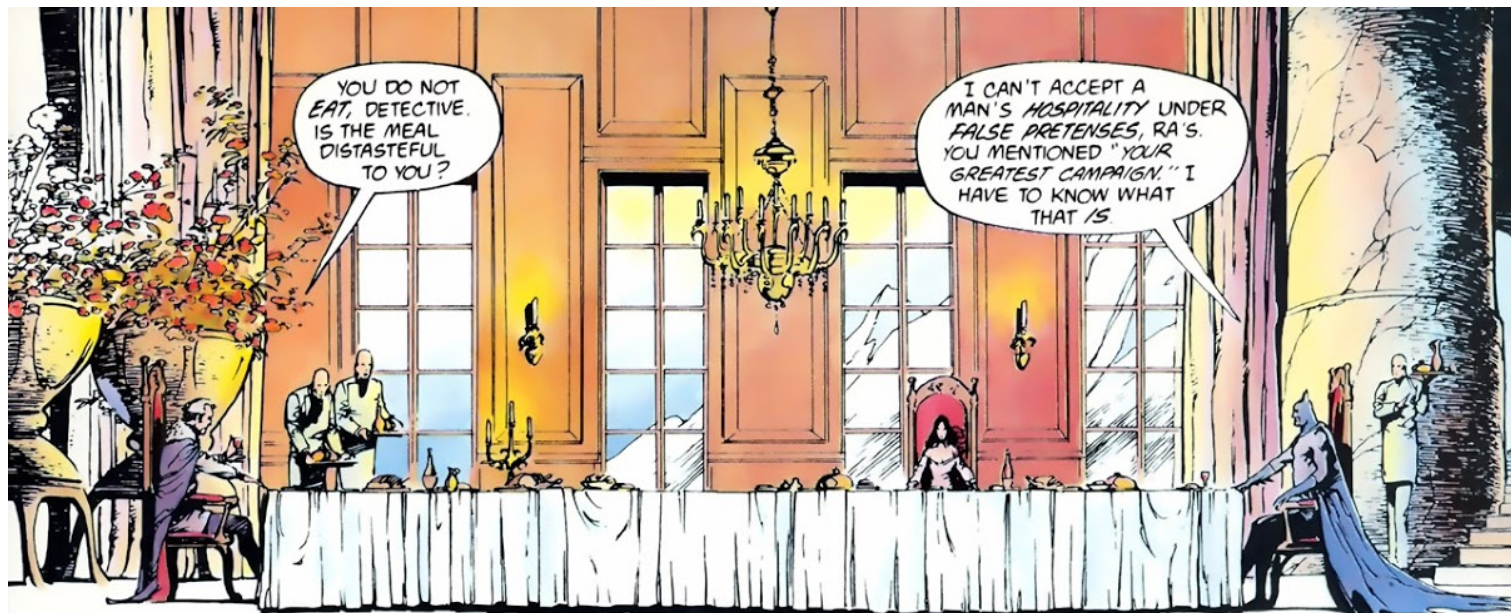
SPOKEN LIKE FLESH
OF MY FLESH! YOU WILL
DINE WITH ME.

GRIND!
ALERT THE
SERVANTS.

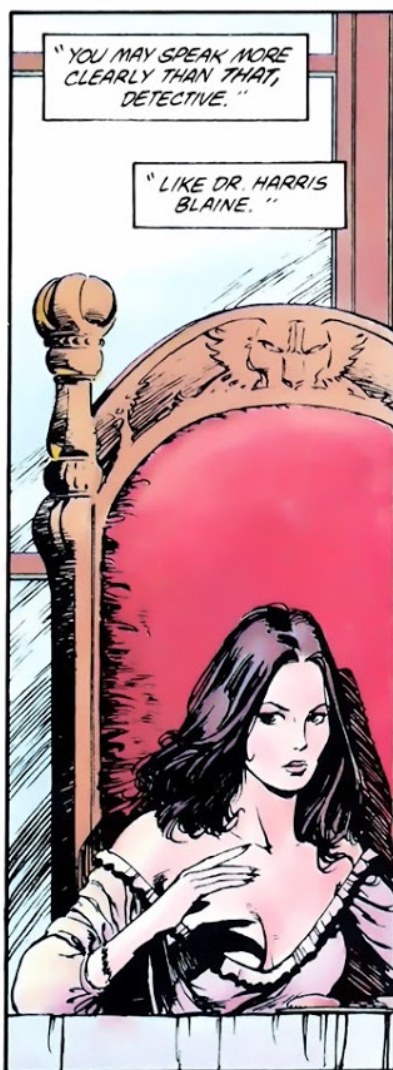


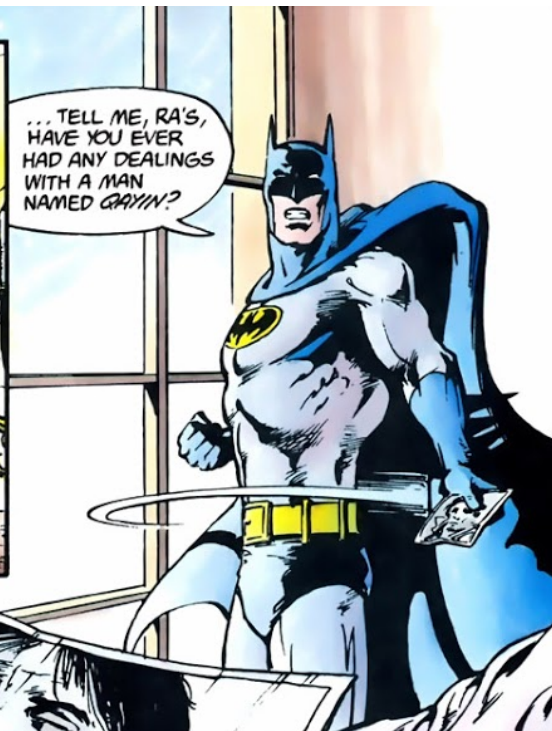
FILTHY
AMERICAN!

YOU DON'T
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE GETTING
ENOUGH RED
MEAT, GRIND--
I'LL TRY TO
SAVE YOU A
BONE.



"AND SHOULD THAT BE THE CASE, ARE YOU SEEING THAT ALL YOUR OLD ENEMIES PRECEDE YOU?"



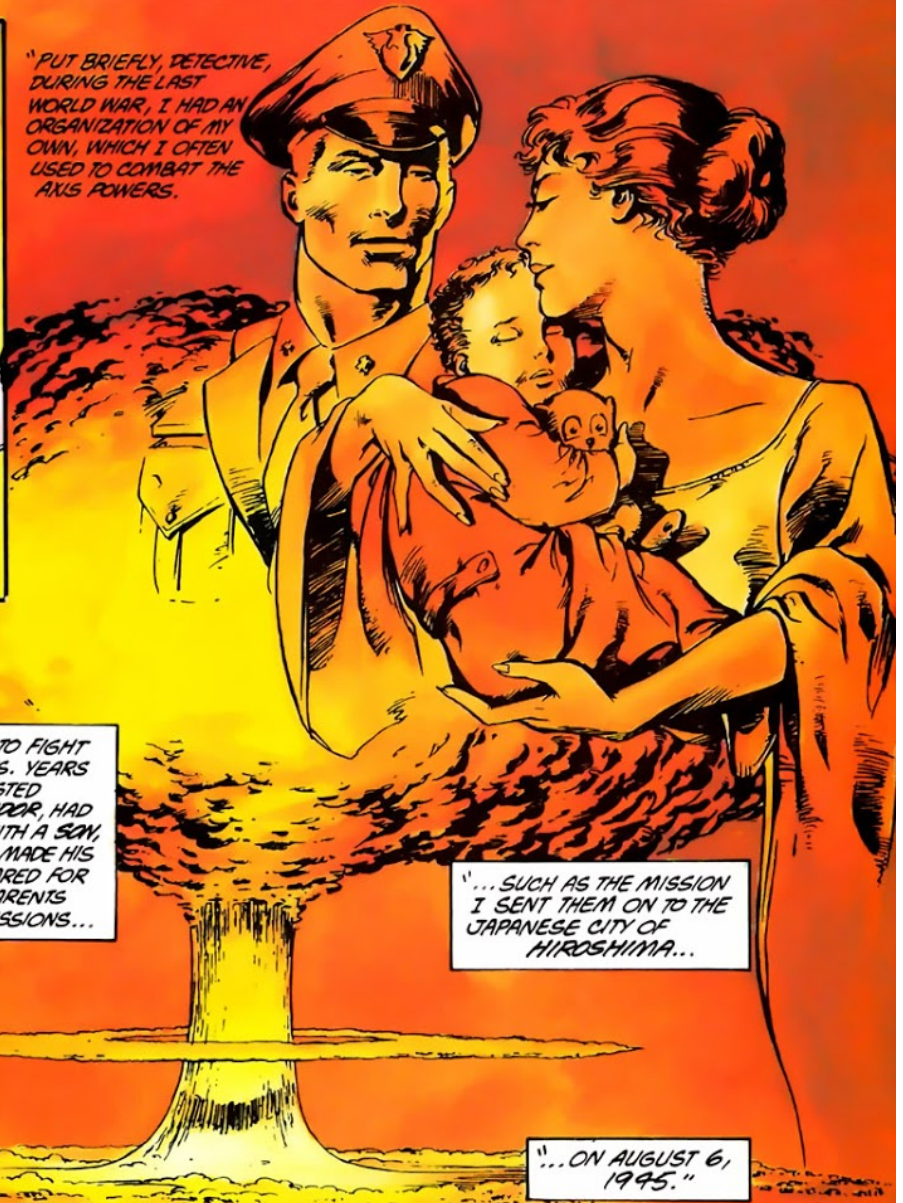




"...BUT SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL..."

SHE REMAINS SO, IN OUR HEARTS, DAUGHTER. NEVER FORGET THAT.

"PUT BRIEFLY, DETECTIVE, DURING THE LAST WORLD WAR, I HAD AN ORGANIZATION OF MY OWN, WHICH I OFTEN USED TO COMBAT THE AXIS POWERS."



"WE HAD MUCH TO FIGHT FOR IN THOSE DAYS. YEARS EARLIER, MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANT, LANDOR, HAD BEEN BLESSED WITH A SON, AND I HAD BEEN MADE HIS GODFATHER. I CARED FOR HIM WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE OFF ON MISSIONS..."

"...SUCH AS THE MISSION I SENT THEM ON TO THE JAPANESE CITY OF HIROSHIMA..."

"...ON AUGUST 6, 1945."



A DATE OF SOME HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, I THINK YOU WILL RECALL, DETECTIVE.



"YOUNG QUINLAN HAD COME WITH ME TO MEET HIS PARENTS, AND I HAD TO PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN HIM FROM JOINING THEM."

"I THOUGHT THE BOY'S HEART WOULD BREAK. WORSE, IT HARDENED..."

"...FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, HE BECAME MOODY, FATALISTIC, OBSESSED WITH THE SUBJECT OF DEATH. HE DEMANDED WE CALL HIM QAYIN, AFTER A VARIATION ON THE NAME OF THE FIRST MURDERER."

"MY BELOVED WIFE, MELISANDE, AND I COULD DO NOTHING TO RELIEVE HIS MELANCHOLY. MELISANDE, WHO WAS, AT THAT TIME, CARRYING TALIA, BEGGED ME TO EXPEL HIM FROM OUR HOUSEHOLD."

"I FELT THAT I COULD NOT. WOULD THAT I HAD."

"ONE NIGHT, WHEN TALIA WAS ONLY A CHILD, MELISANDE CAUGHT QAYIN PROWLING ABOUT THE SECRET ROOM WHERE I KEPT AN EARLIER VERSION OF THE PIT."

"AND TALIA SAW IT?"

"HORRIFIED -- FOR THAT ROOM WAS FORBIDDEN TO ALL, SAVE ME -- QAYIN FLED... AND IN DOING SO, PUSHED MY BELOVED INTO THE PIT."

"HER DEATH WAS INSTANTANEOUS..."

YES...



...BUT QAYIN ESCAPED THAT NIGHT, AND VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED. FOR YEARS WE COULD FIND NO TRACE OF HIM. BUT NOW HE IS BACK...

...AND I WISH TO KILL HIM. NOT ONLY TO AVENGE MY MOTHER...



THERE IS NO NEED TO PROVE WHAT I ALREADY KNOW, TALIA. I FORGIVE YOU YOUR PAST DISOBEDIENCES.

HOWEVER, WITH THE THREAT OF QAYIN LOOMING ON THE HORIZON, PERHAPS IT IS TIME I TOOK AN ALLY TO DEFEAT HIM-- YOU, DETECTIVE.

...BUT TO ALSO PROVE TO MY FATHER THAT I STILL LOVE HIM.



QAYIN MENACES YOUR WORLD AS WELL AS MINE, DETECTIVE. I FEEL IT WILL REQUIRE ALL OUR SKILLS TO OVERCOME HIM...

...AND THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL NOT MEET DEATH IN THE BARGAIN.



DO YOU ACCEPT MY OFFER?

YES.

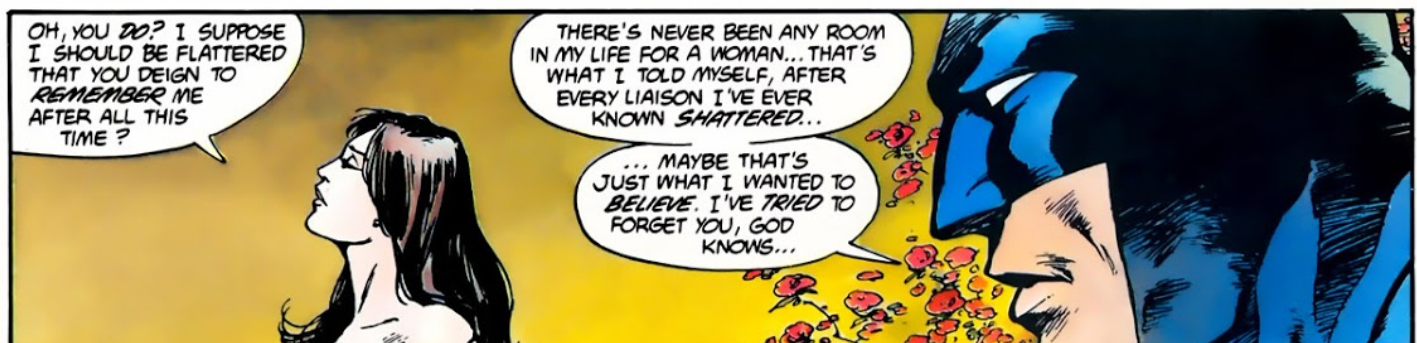


...AND WITH THIS POSITION COMES THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER. TO ACCEPT THE FIRST IS TO ACCEPT THE SECOND, THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND.

DO YOU STILL ACCEPT MY OFFER, DETECTIVE?



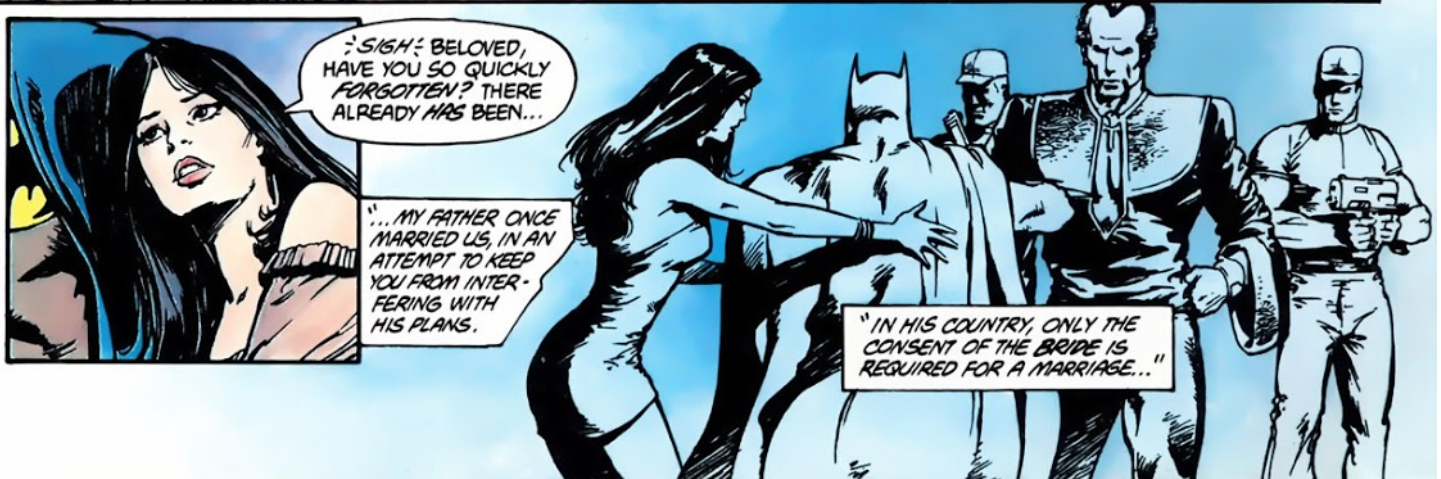
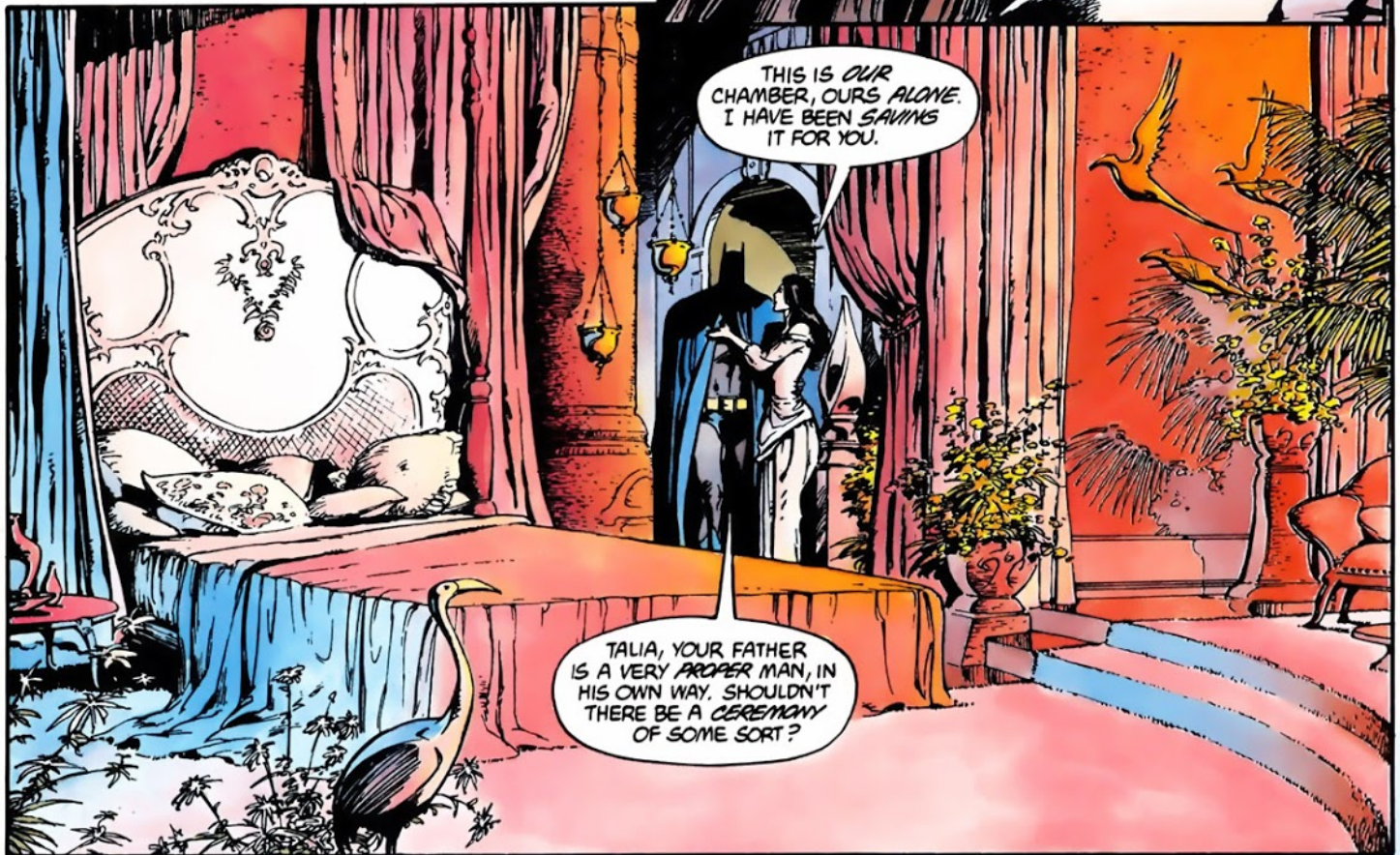
"I DO."

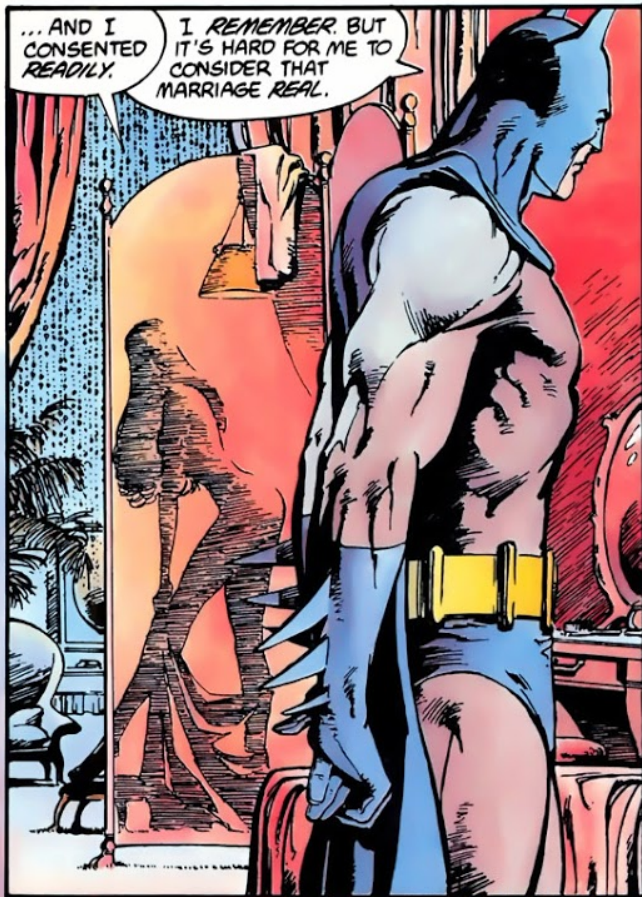


OH, YOU DO? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE FLATTERED THAT YOU DEIGN TO REMEMBER ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR A WOMAN... THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF, AFTER EVERY LIAISON I'VE EVER KNOWN SHATTERED...

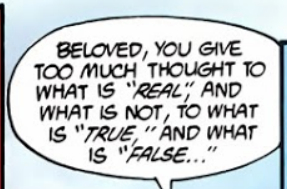
...MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED TO BELIEVE. I'VE TRIED TO FORGET YOU, GOD KNOWS...



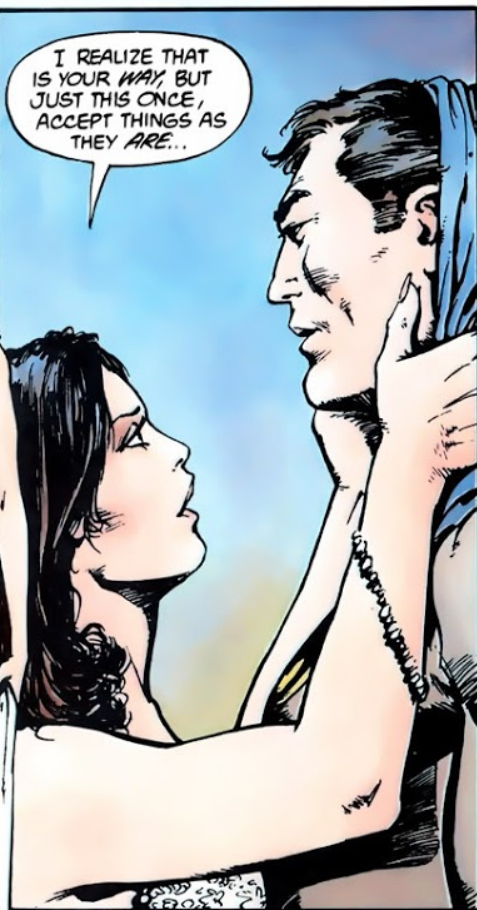


... AND I
CONSENTED
READILY.

I REMEMBER. BUT
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO
CONSIDER THAT
MARRIAGE REAL.



BELoved, YOU GIVE
TOO MUCH THOUGHT TO
WHAT IS "REAL," AND
WHAT IS NOT, TO WHAT
IS "TRUE," AND WHAT
IS "FALSE..."



I REALIZE THAT
IS YOUR WAY, BUT
JUST THIS ONCE,
ACCEPT THINGS AS
THEY ARE...



... FOREGO
YOUR CONTROL,
YOUR DISCIPLINE...

... JUST
ONCE, LET
YOURSELF
GO...

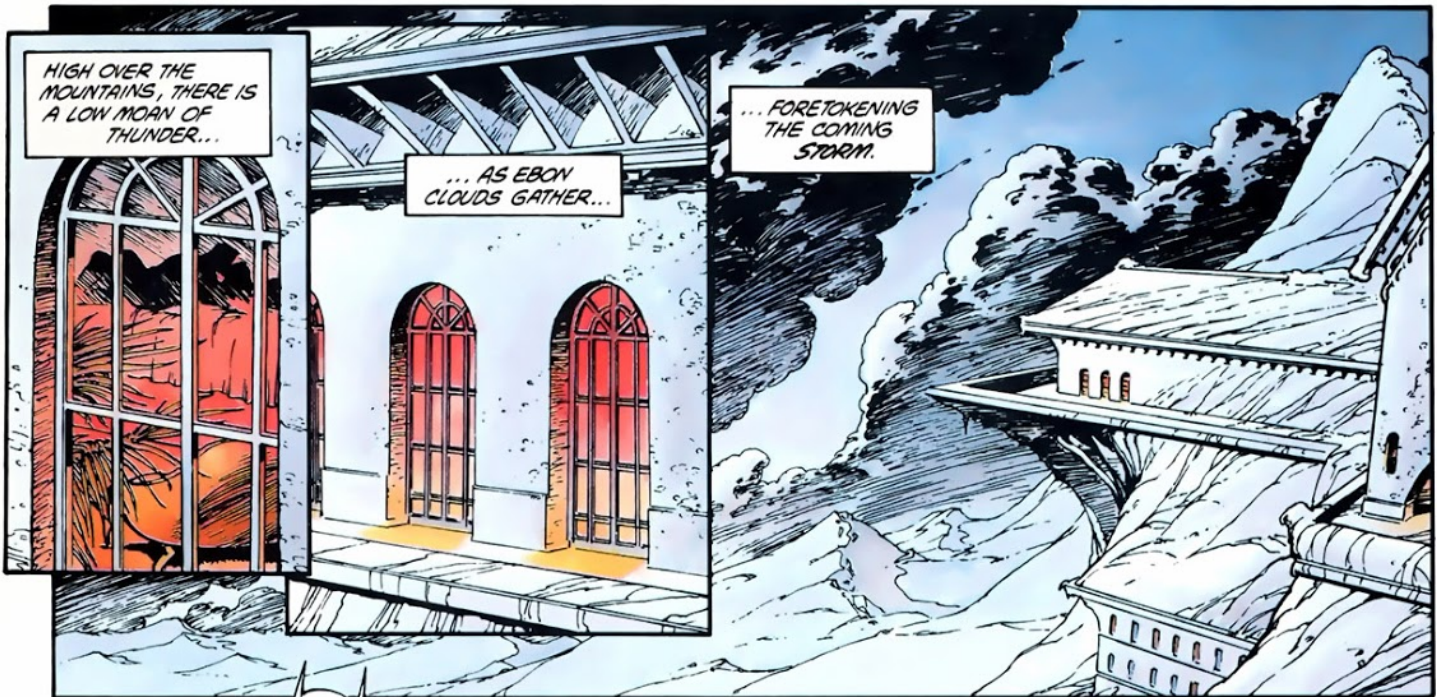


"... AND TAKE
ME WITH YOU."

HIGH OVER THE MOUNTAINS, THERE IS A LOW MOAN OF THUNDER...

... AS EBON CLOUDS GATHER...

... FORETOKENING THE COMING STORM.



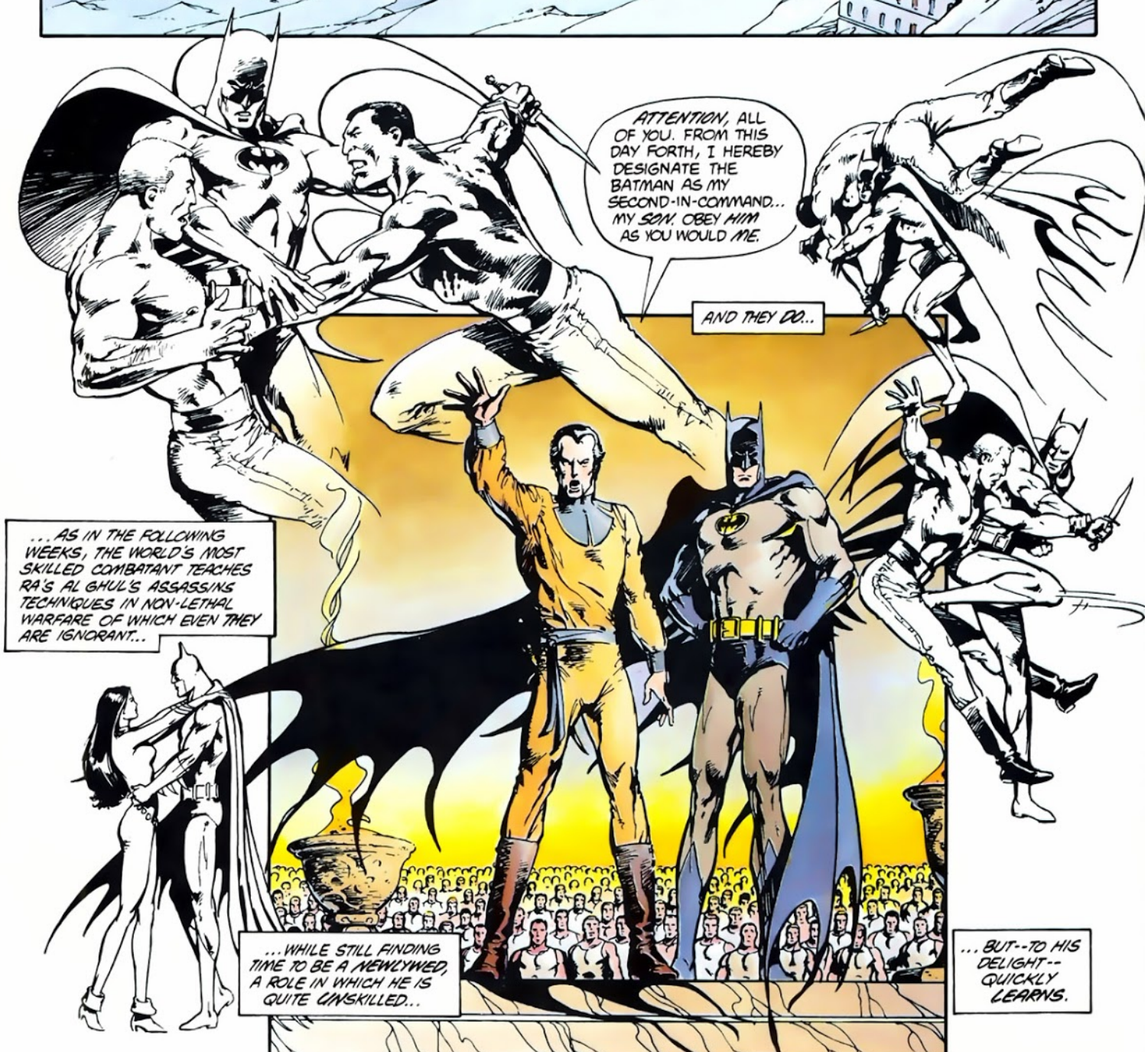
ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU. FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I HEREBY DESIGNATE THE BATMAN AS MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND... MY SON. OBEY HIM AS YOU WOULD ME.

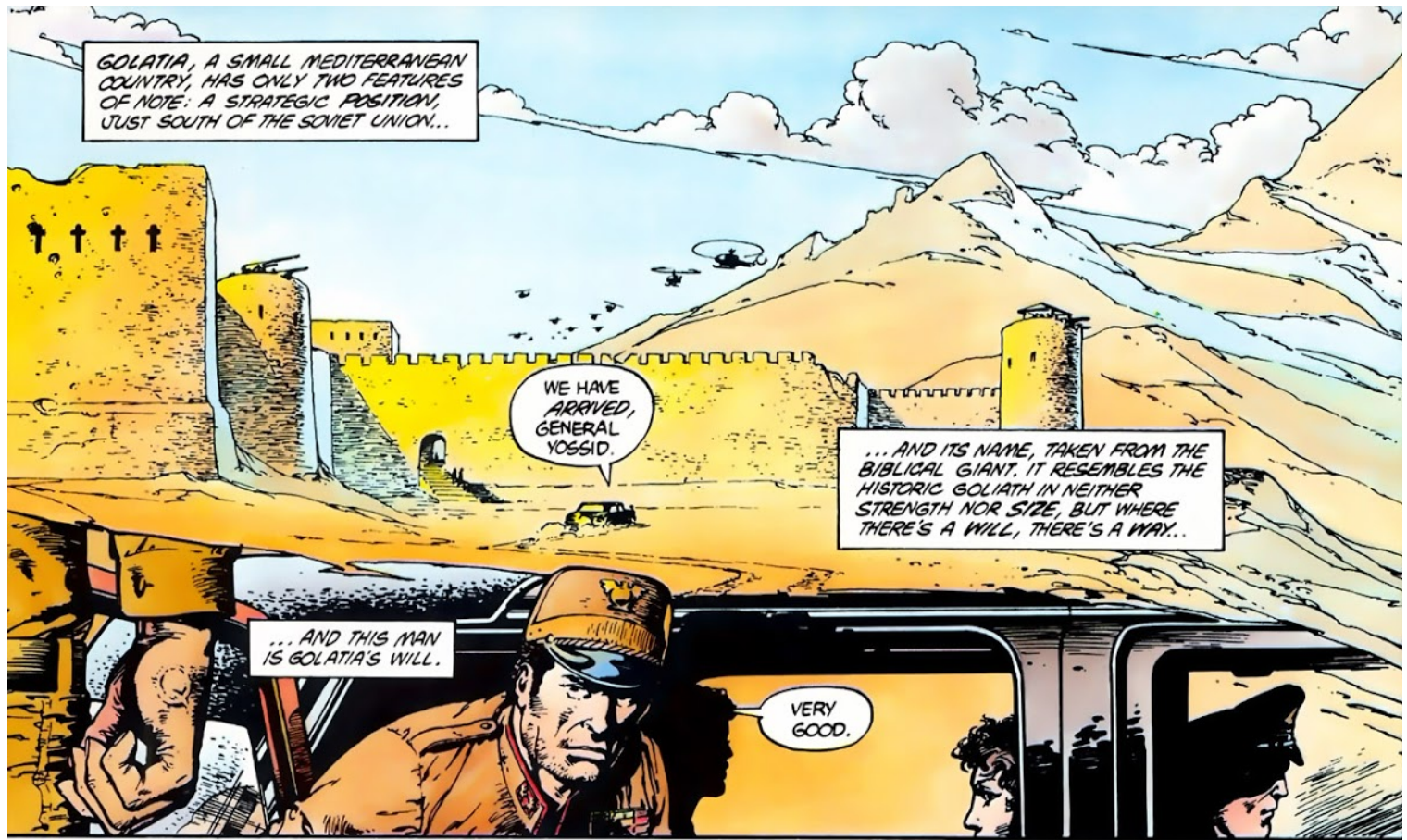
AND THEY DO...

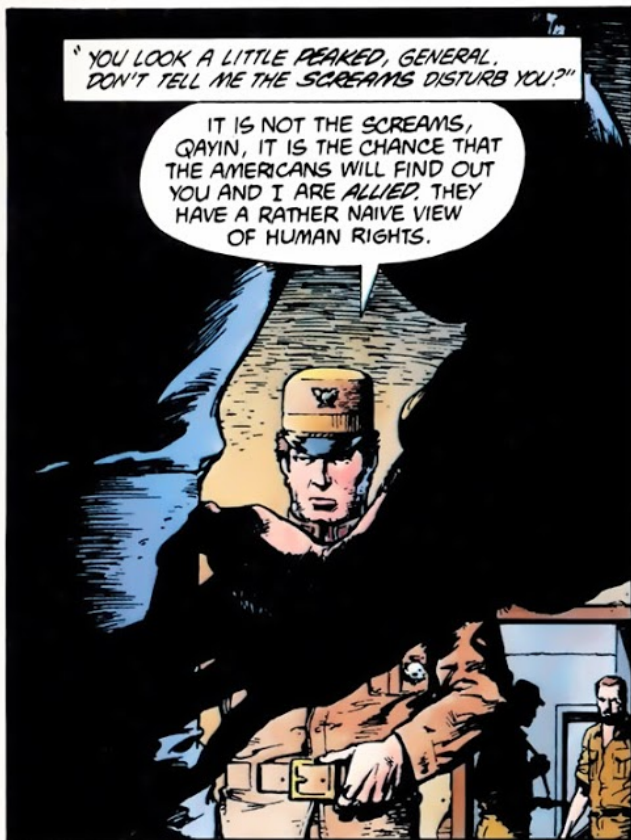
... AS IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, THE WORLD'S MOST SKILLED COMBATANT TEACHES RA'S AL GHUL'S ASSASSIN'S TECHNIQUES IN NON-LETHAL WARFARE OF WHICH EVEN THEY ARE IGNORANT...

... WHILE STILL FINDING TIME TO BE A NEWLYWED, A ROLE IN WHICH HE IS QUITE UNSKILLED...

... BUT--TO HIS DELIGHT-- QUICKLY LEARNS.







"YOU LOOK A LITTLE *PEAKED*, GENERAL. DON'T TELL ME THE *SCREAMS* DISTURB YOU?"

IT IS NOT THE *SCREAMS*, QAYIN, IT IS THE CHANCE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL FIND OUT YOU AND I ARE *ALLIED*. THEY HAVE A RATHER NAIVE VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS.



YES, THAT WOULD BE VERY BAD. DO YOU THINK THEY SUSPECT?



IF THEY DO, THEY VALUE GOLATIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION MORE. BUT I THINK WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR; THE LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS.

EXCELLENT. IT GOES WELL, THEN.



AS LONG AS WE STICK TO THE *PLAN*, YES...



... BUT YOU ARE OVERSTEPPING YOUR BOUNDS, QAYIN, I DID NOT AUTHORIZE THE MURDER OF THE AMERICAN... WHAT WAS HIS NAME...?

BLAINE. BUT MY AGENT FELT IT WAS NECESSARY, GENERAL... AND I *CONCURRED*. DO NOT *WORRY*, YOUR TIME -- *GOLATIA'S* TIME -- IS ALMOST AT HAND.

SOON YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO CURRY THE AMERICANS' FAVOR FOR PROTECTION FROM THE SOVIETS...



... SOON YOU WILL HAVE POWER OF YOUR OWN!

TO OUR MUTUAL *STRENGTH*, MY FRIEND.

OUR MUTUAL *SUPERIORITY*, GENERAL.



YOU *FOOL*.



MR. QAYIN? MR. QAYIN, I HAVE *NEWS* FOR YOU.

WHAT IS IT, HALLAM? IF IT IS ABOUT THE *SATELLITE*--

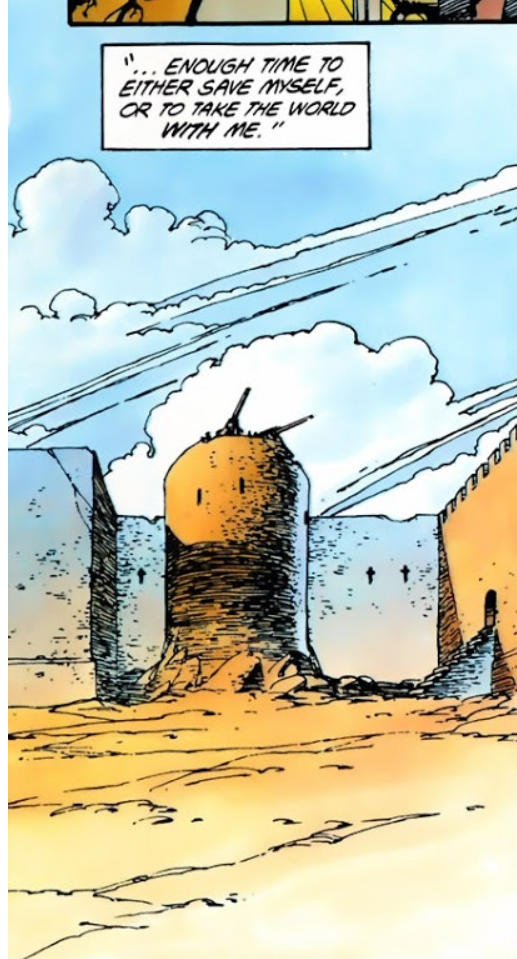
NO, MR. QAYIN, I HAVE THE *TEST RESULTS*.



"I'M AFRAID THE PROGNOSIS IS NOT GOOD, YOU--"



"... ENOUGH TIME TO EITHER SAVE MYSELF, OR TO TAKE THE WORLD WITH ME."



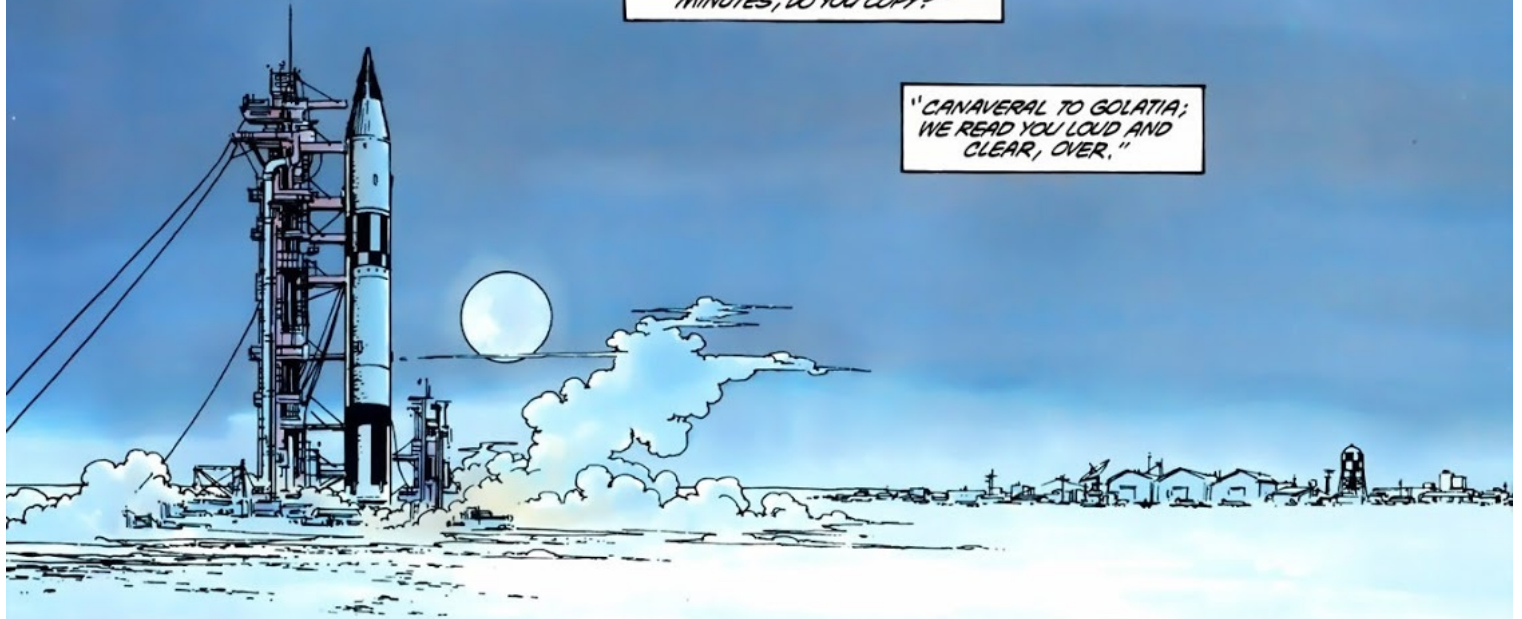
AND THE THUNDER MIGHT BE TAKEN FOR A FUSILLADE OF CANNON, GROWING EVER NEARER, EVER LOUDER...





"GOLATIA BASE TO CANAVERAL;
LIFT OFF IS ZERO MINUS THIRTY
MINUTES, DO YOU COPY?"

"CANAVERAL TO GOLATIA;
WE READ YOU LOUD AND
CLEAR, OVER."



WE'RE QUITE *PROUD* OF
THE FACILITIES WE'VE BUILT
HERE, GENERAL. THE
PRESIDENT WANTED ME TO
ASSURE YOU HOW GRATEFUL
HE WAS FOR YOUR
COOPERATION.

NONSENSE, GENERAL CONNORS, WE
OF GOLATIA ARE PROUD TO ALLY
OURSELVES WITH YOU AMERICANS.



EASY WITH THAT ACID
SPRAY, DONAL; IT'LL TAKE
THE SKIN RIGHT OFF
YOU.

ALMOST THROUGH,
SIR. ANOTHER
FEW SECONDS...



WE'RE INSIDE NOW.
KEEP ALL CONVERSATION
TO A MINIMUM, STAY
LOW AND QUIET.



YOU SEEM
SOMEWHAT
DISTRAUGHT,
BELOVED.

I'M NOT USED TO BREAKING
INTO MY OWN COUNTRY'S
FACILITIES, TALIA. BUT IF
THIS WEATHER SATELLITE
IS LAUNCHED, I'M CERTAIN
QAYIN WILL USE IT AGAINST
MANKIND...

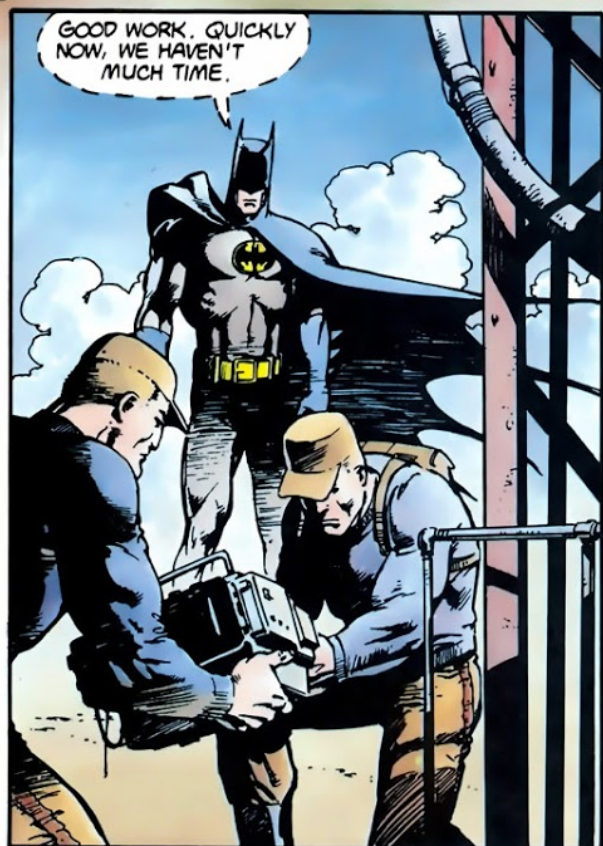
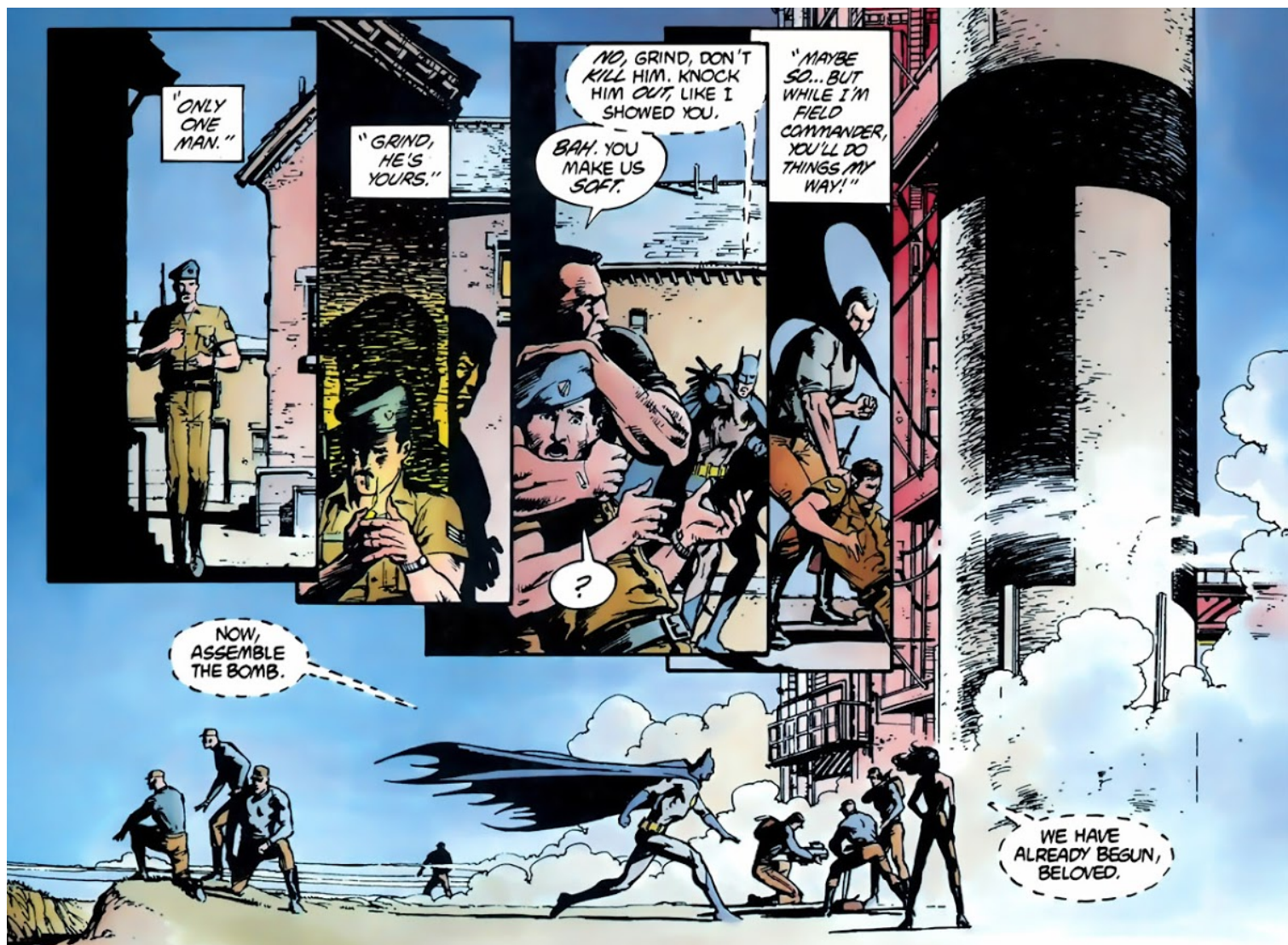


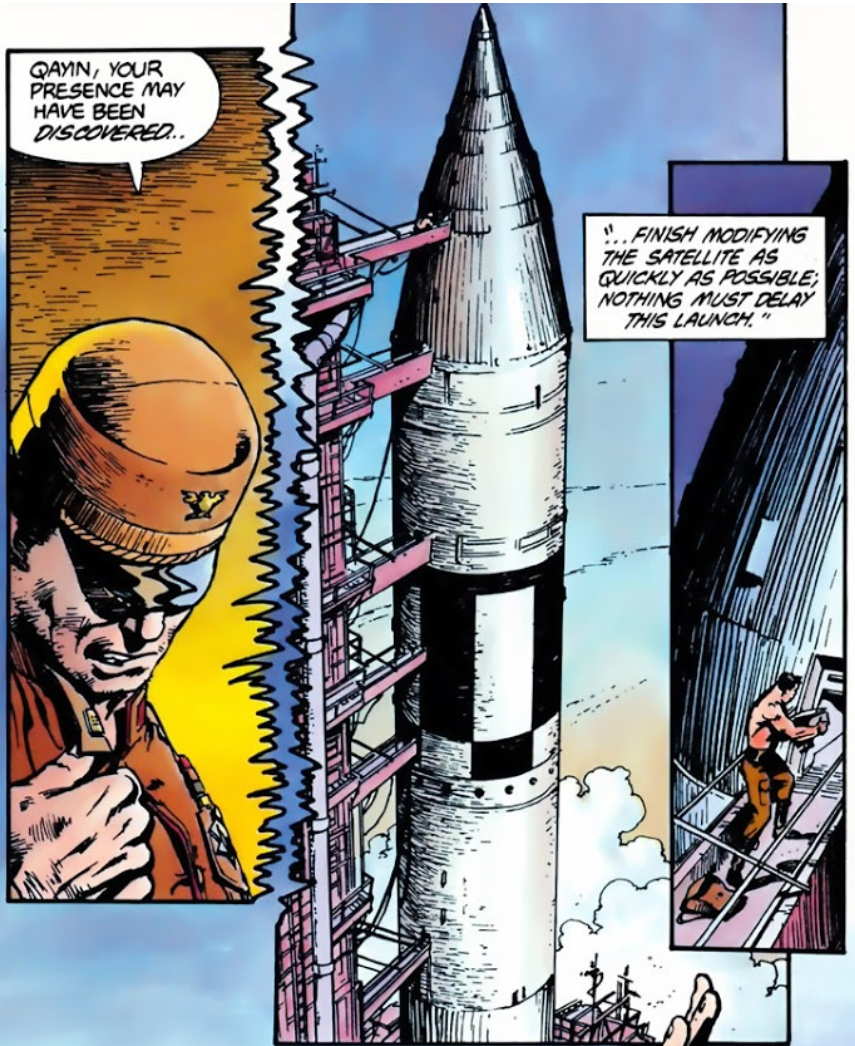
"...AND I CAN'T
PERMIT THAT."

HSSST.



A GUARD
APPROACHES. BE *STILL*.



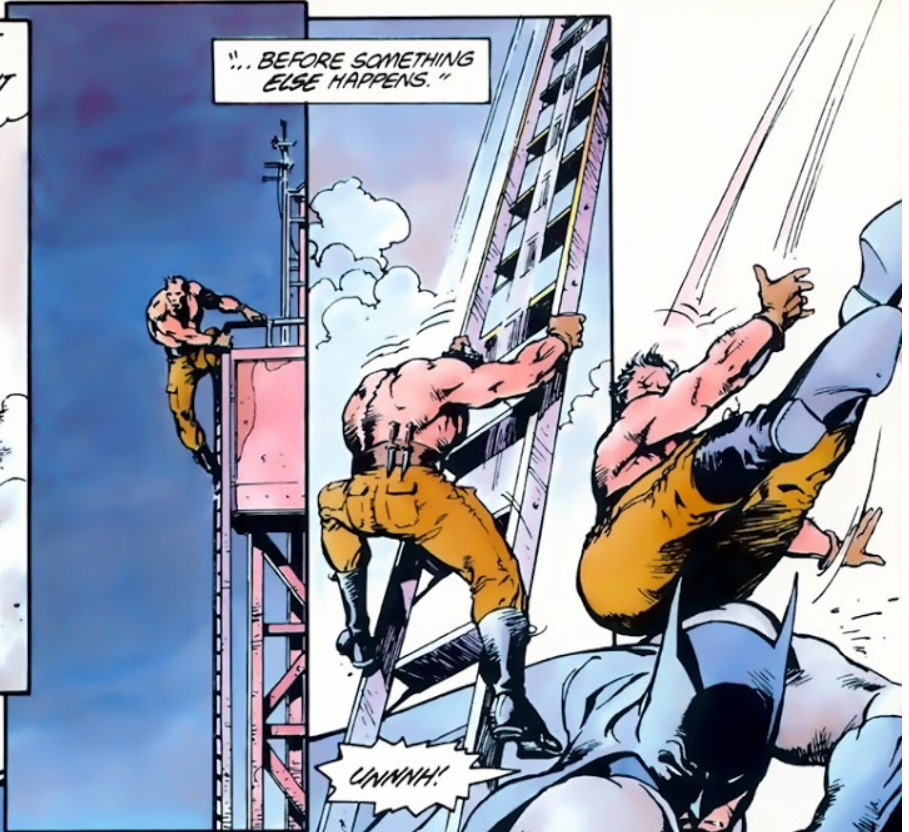






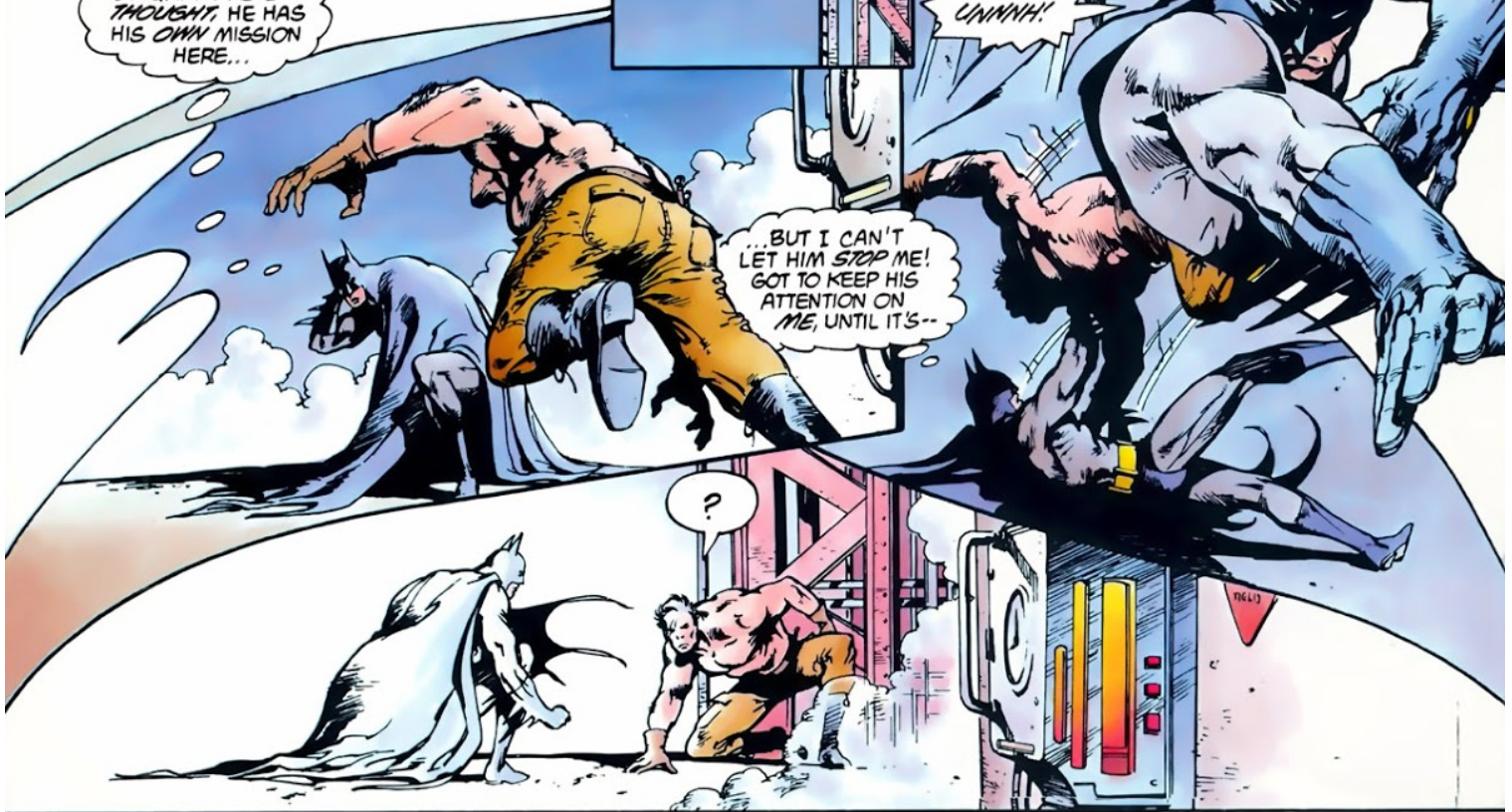
DONE! I'VE GOT
JUST ENOUGH
TIME TO GET OUT
OF HERE...

"... BEFORE SOMETHING
ELSE HAPPENS."



UNNNH!

THAT'S GOT TO
BE QAYIN! AS I
THOUGHT, HE HAS
HIS OWN MISSION
HERE...



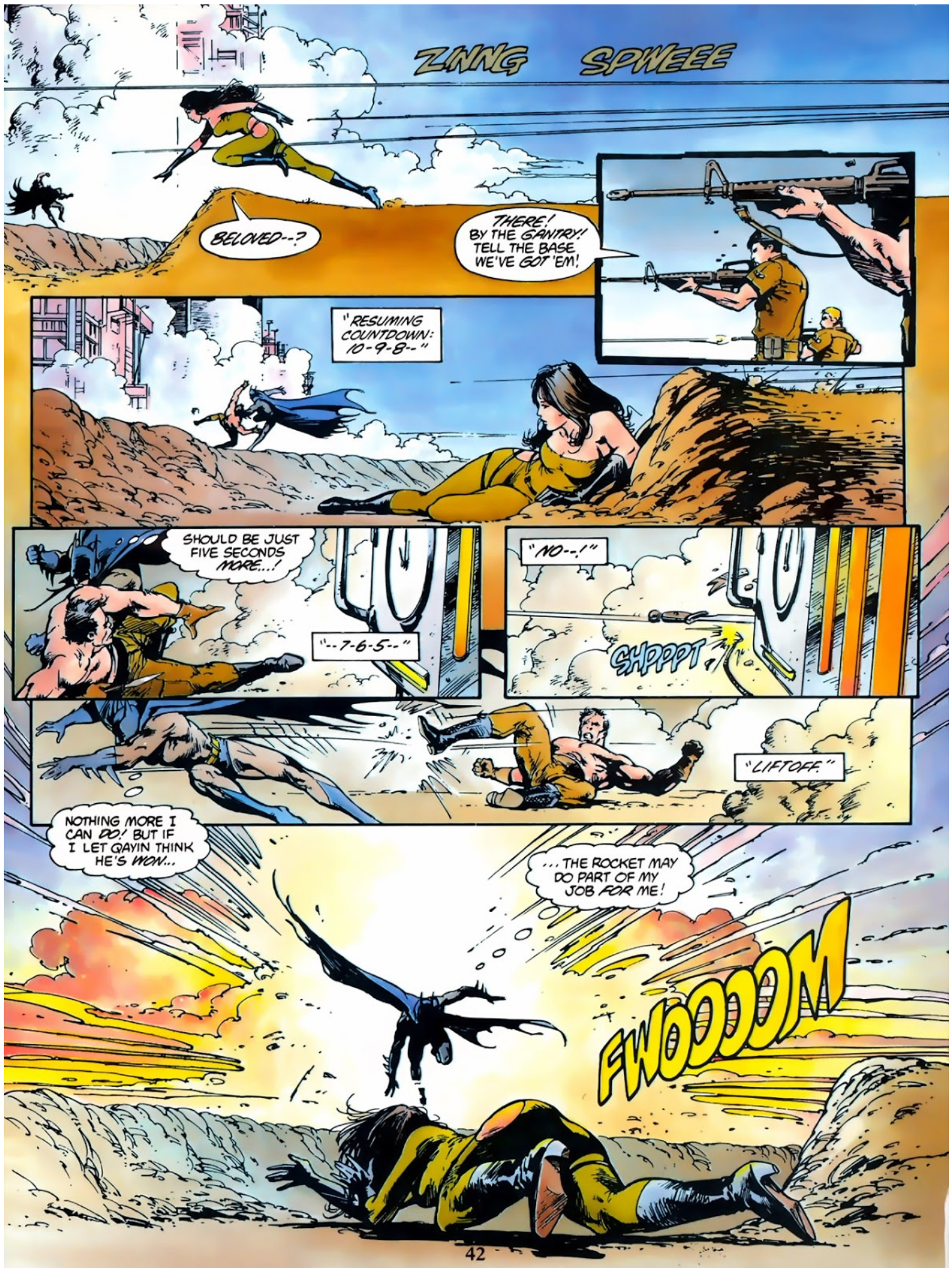
...BUT I CAN'T
LET HIM STOP ME!
GOT TO KEEP HIS
ATTENTION ON
ME, UNTIL IT'S--

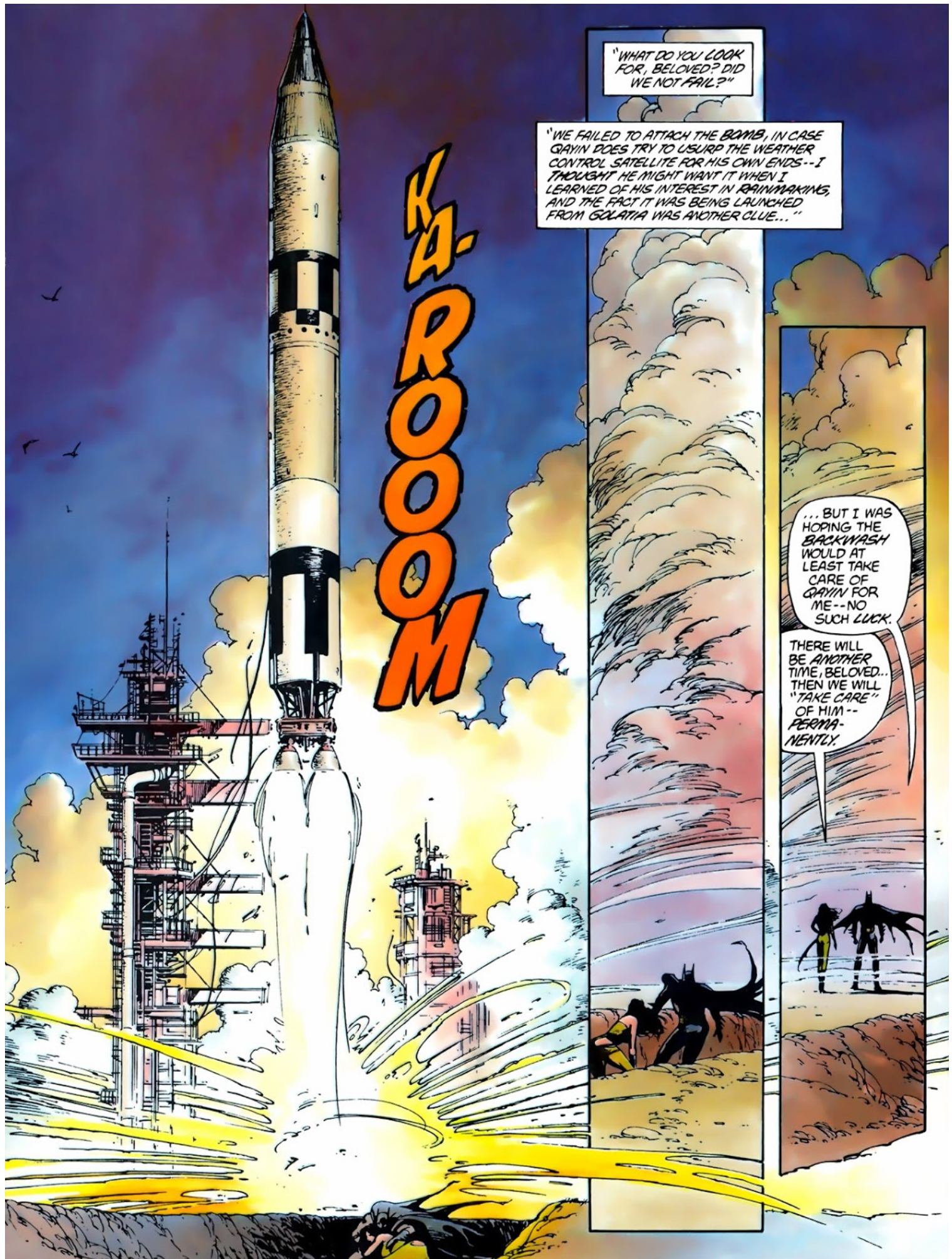
?



--TOO
LATE!

UMMPH





"WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR, BELOVED? DID WE NOT FAIL?"

"WE FAILED TO ATTACH THE BOMB, IN CASE QAYIN DOES TRY TO USURP THE WEATHER CONTROL SATELLITE FOR HIS OWN ENDS--I THOUGHT HE MIGHT WANT IT WHEN I LEARNED OF HIS INTEREST IN RAINMAKING, AND THE FACT IT WAS BEING LAUNCHED FROM GOLATHIA WAS ANOTHER CLUE..."

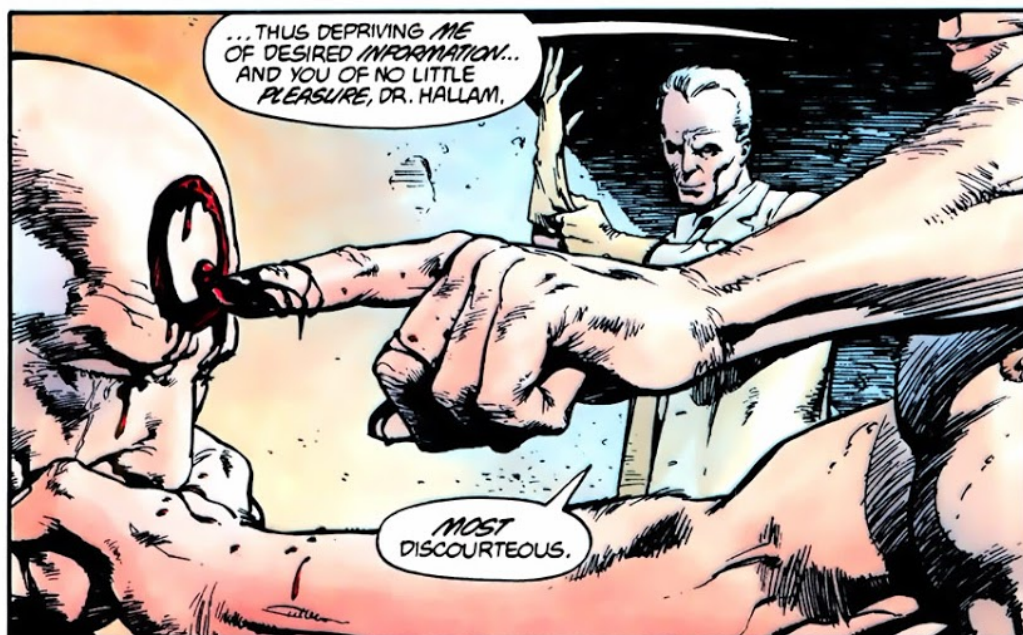
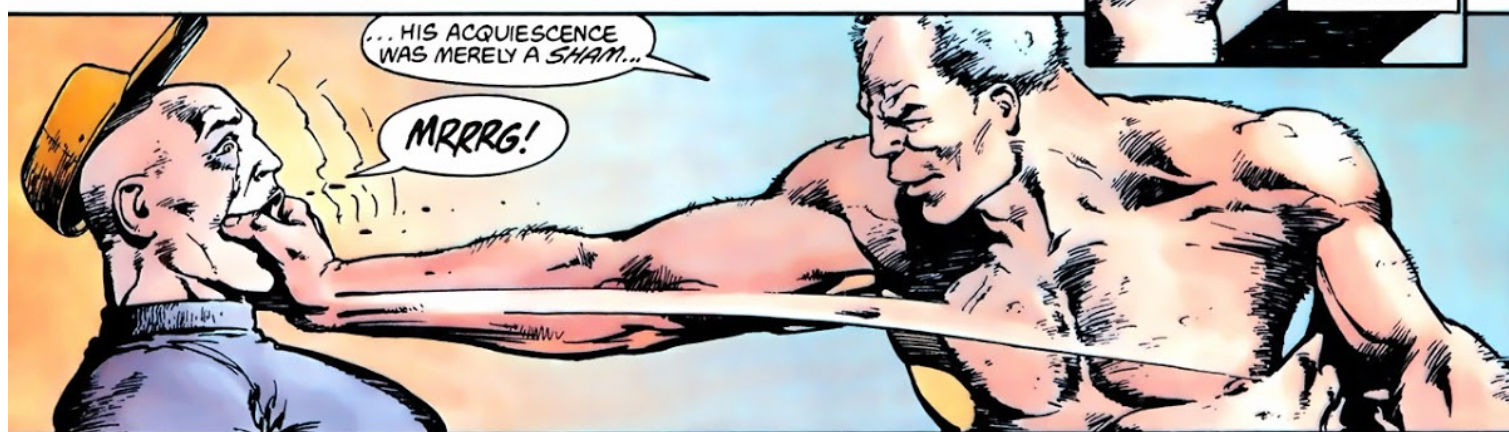
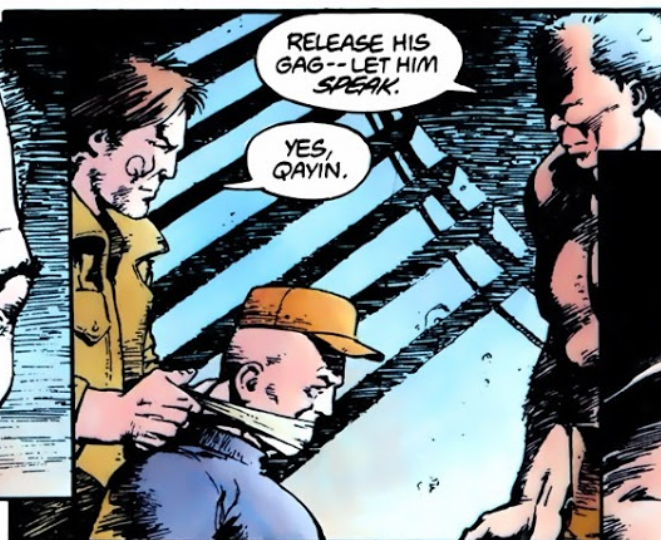
... BUT I WAS HOPING THE BACKWASH WOULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF QAYIN FOR ME--NO SUCH LUCK.

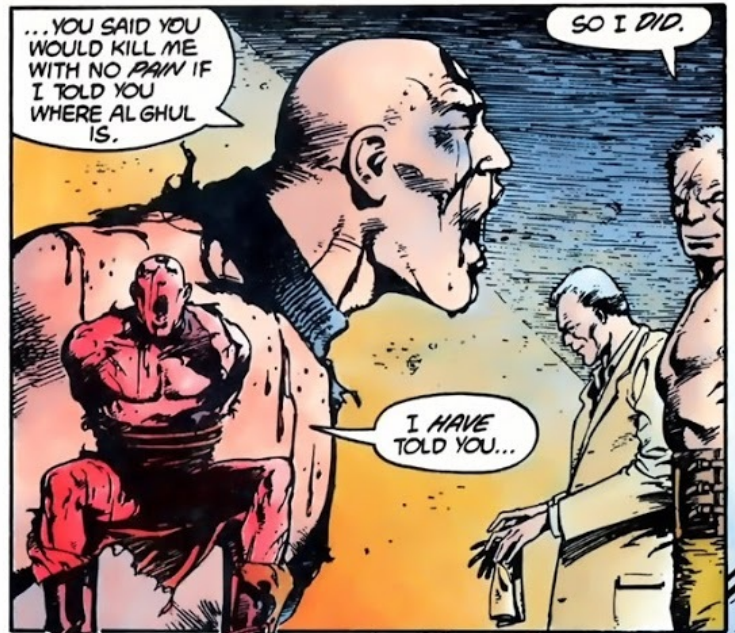
THERE WILL BE ANOTHER TIME, BELOVED... THEN WE WILL "TAKE CARE" OF HIM--PERMANENTLY.



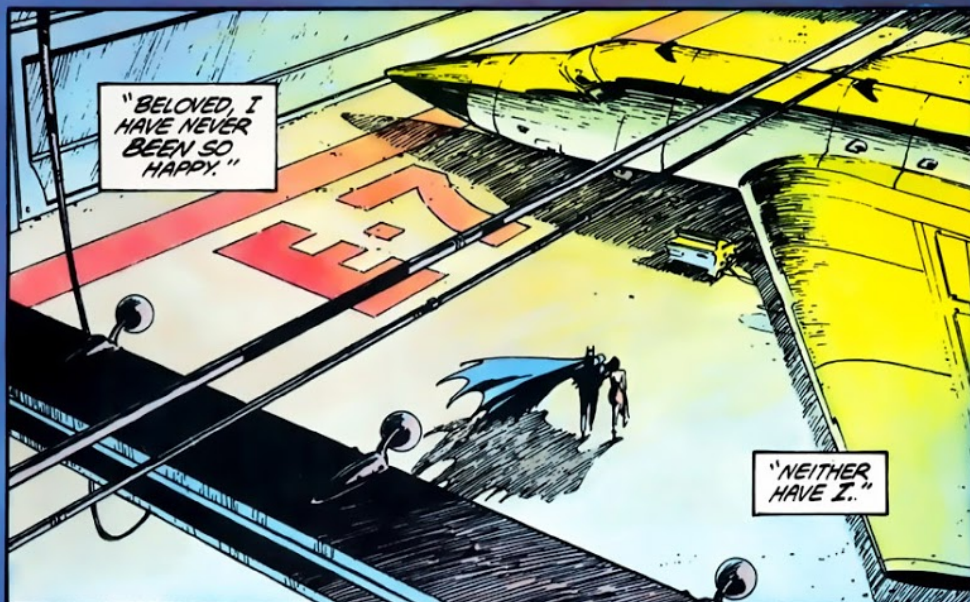












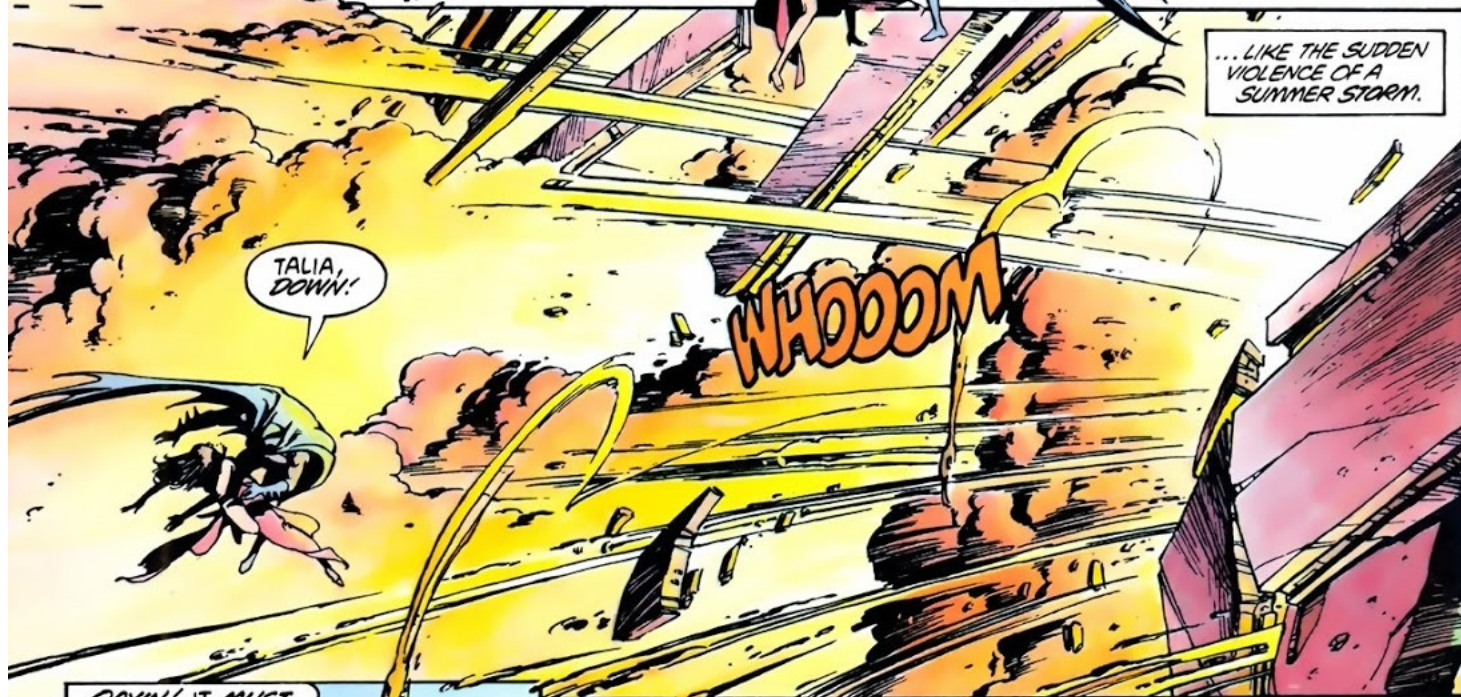


...AND I SHALL WEAR IT ALWAYS.

ABRUPTLY, IT ERUPTS...

CRAAAKT

BELLOVED, WHAT--?

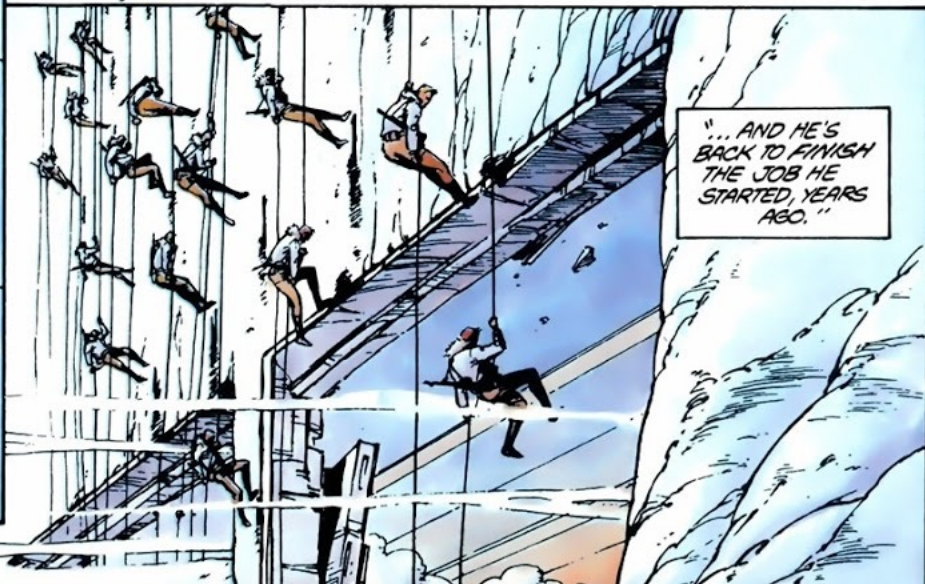


...LIKE THE SUDDEN VIOLENCE OF A SUMMER STORM.

TALIA, DOWN!

WHOOOM

CRAYIN.' IT MUST BE! HE'S FOUND THIS PLACE...



...AND HE'S BACK TO FINISH THE JOB HE STARTED, YEARS AGO.



--ANY...

FIRST
ASSAULT TEAM,
GO! WE'VE CAUGHT
THEM BY SURPRISE,
IT'LL BE MINUTES
BEFORE THEY
CAN MUSTER
ANY--

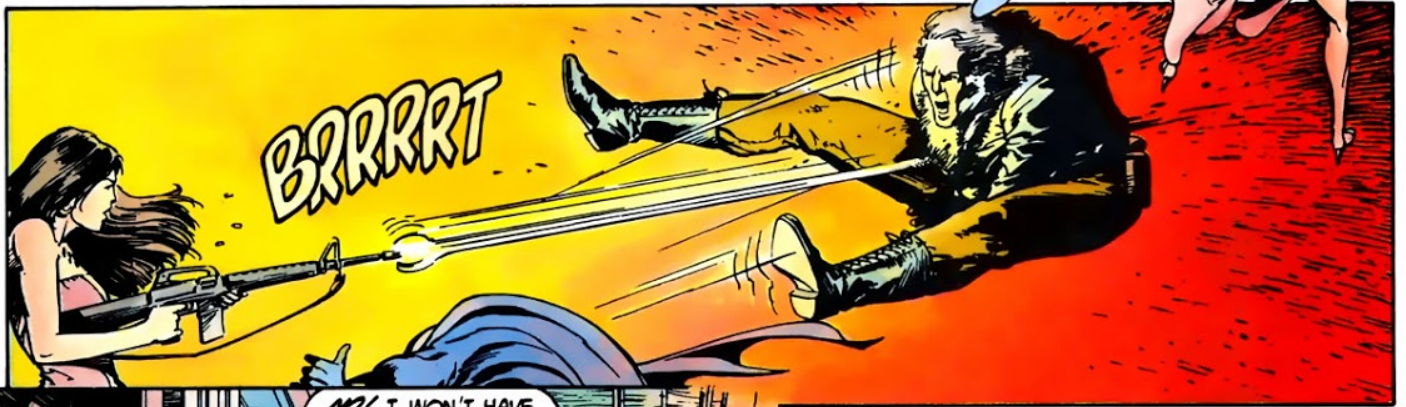
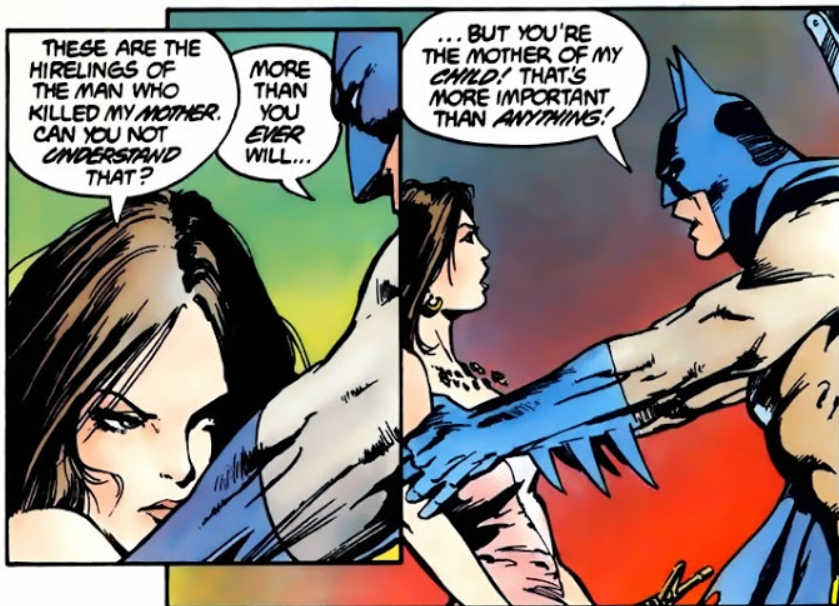
...RETALIATION?

TALIA?

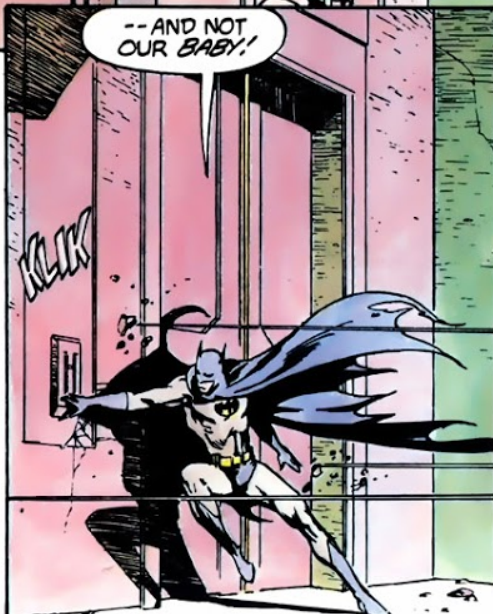
I AM WELL, BELOVED.
LET US FIND THEIR LEADER,
AND END IT!

DAMN IT, NO! I
DON'T WANT YOU
OUT HERE!

BUT--

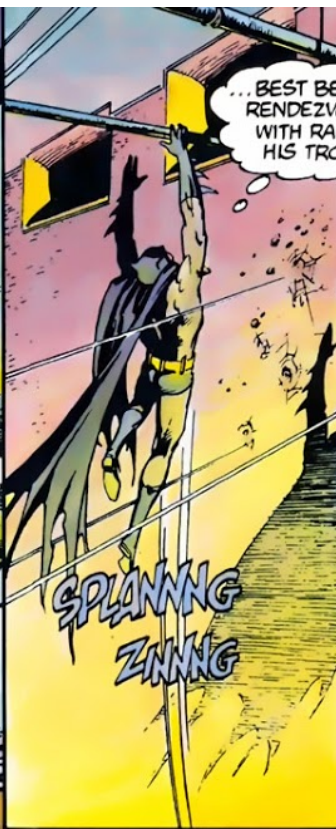


SPANG
TANG PING





DECEYED THEM AWAY FROM TALIA, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH EVEN I CAN DO AGAINST ODDS LIKE THESE...



...BEST BET IS TO RENDEZVOUS WITH RA'S AND HIS TROOPS...

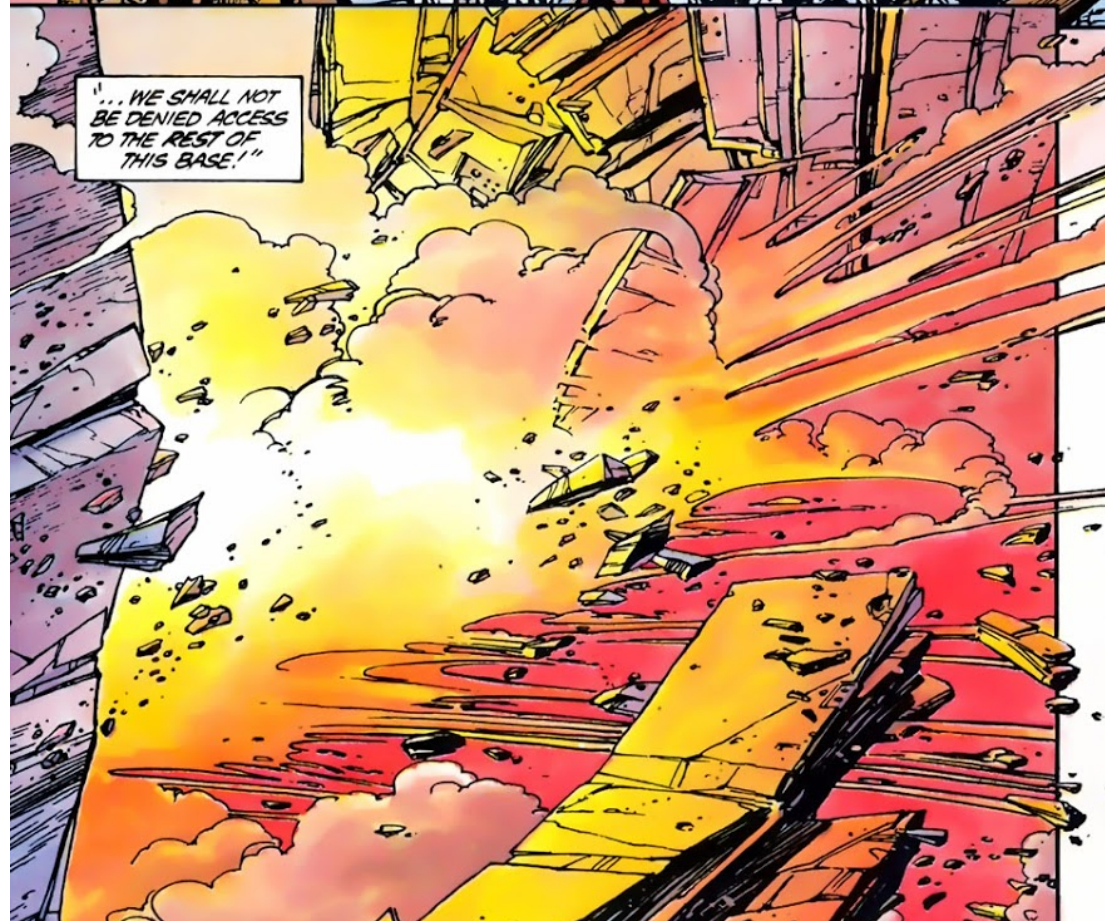
...AND HOPE TO END THIS, HERE AND NOW!

SPLANNING
ZNNNG



WE HAVE NOW, QAYIN!

WE OCCUPY A MERE FOOTHOLD! BRING THE EXPLOSIVES...

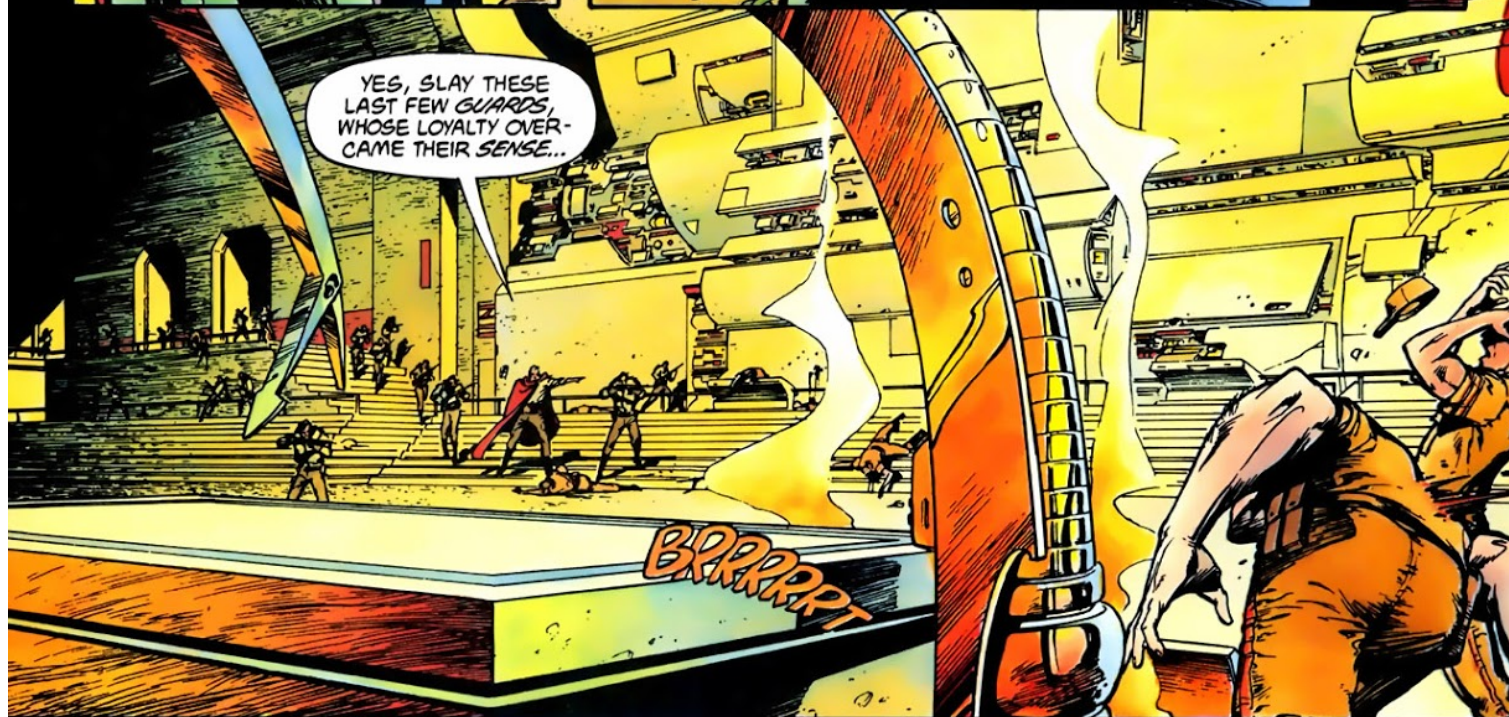


"...WE SHALL NOT BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE REST OF THIS BASE!"



I THINK IT'S YOU, QAYIN WANTS, RA'S.

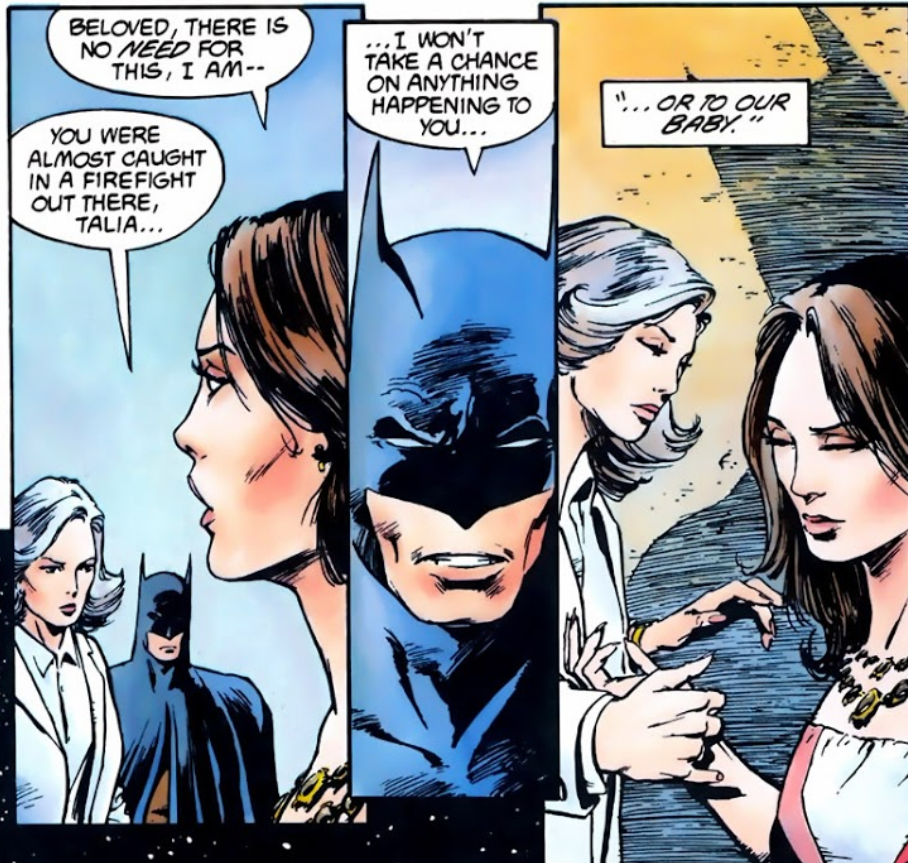
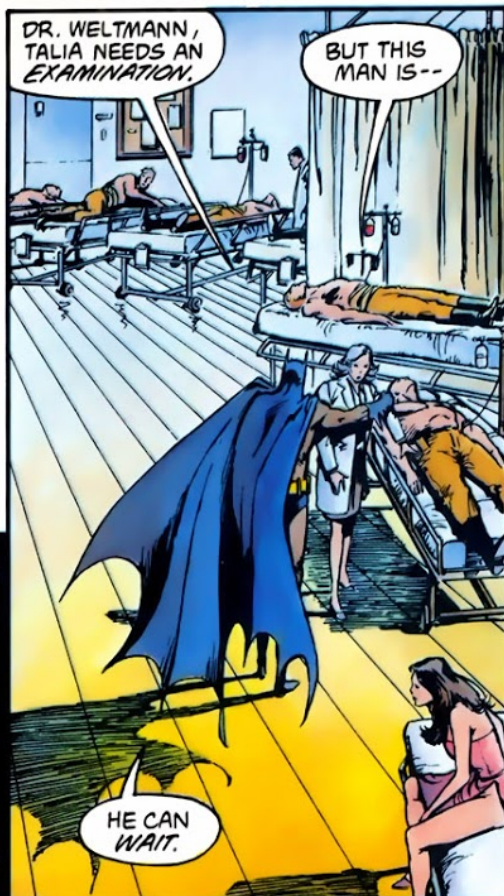
HE DESIRES MY LIFE, YES. HE ALSO COVERS THE PIT, DETECTIVE...











≡KRRRRK≡ CANAVERAL TO GOLATIA BASE, SATELLITE HAS REACHED OPTIMUM ORBIT, RECOMMEND YOU ACTIVATE. OVER.

1
ROGER, CANAVERAL, GOLATIA BASE COPIES...

... AND IS ACTIVATING. PREPARING TO TEST MAGNETIC FIELD GENERATOR IN FIVE SECONDS. FIVE-FOUR-THREE-TWO-ONE-

ZERO.

"WELL, SO FAR, SO GOOD..."

...THE MAGNETIC FIELD'S AFFECTING THE OZONE LAYER, ALL RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK, HARRY?

READ-OUTS LOOK GOOD...

...LET'S TRY A LITTLE TEST...

"...SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT RAIN."

KA-KROOOM

"THE AMERICANS HAVE ACTIVATED THE SATELLITE, GENERAL YOSSID..."

...IT SEEMS ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER, AS OUR SOURCES PREDICTED.

AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY, WEATHER CONTROL...

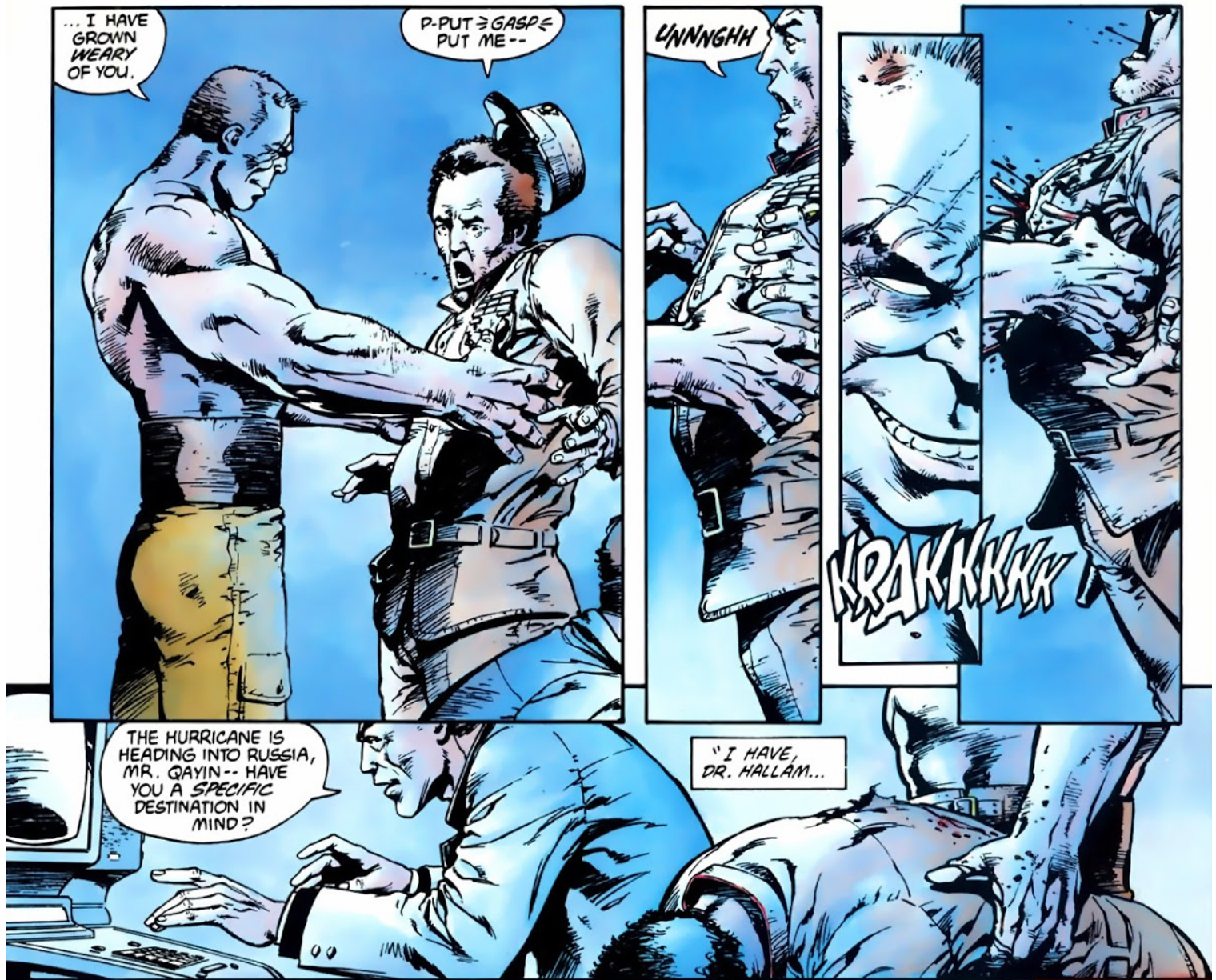
...LET US RELIEVE THEM OF IT, DR. HALLAM.

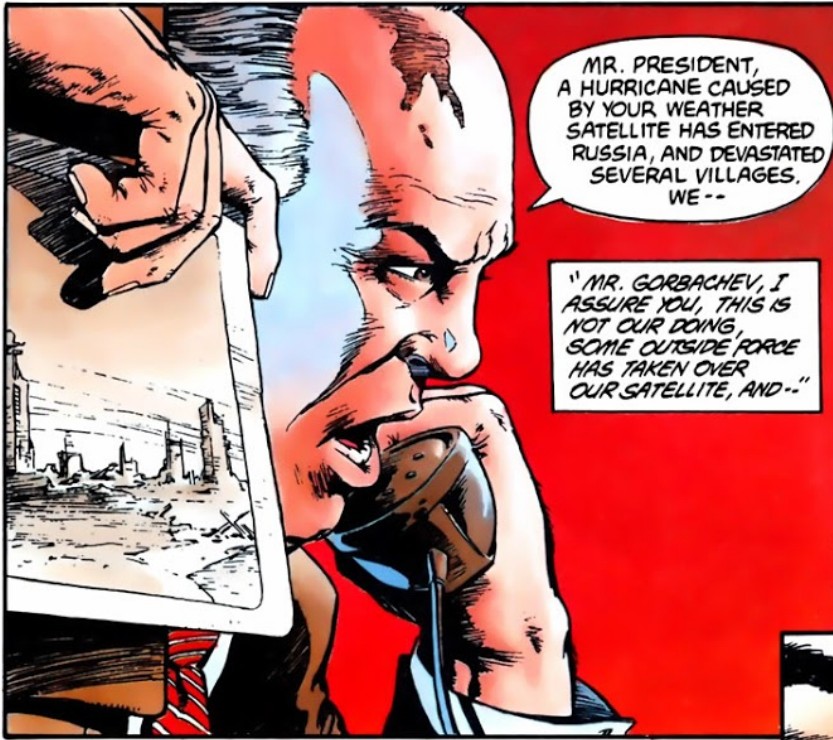
YES, MR. QAYIN. TECHNICIANS, ACTIVATE THE CIRCUITRY IMPLANT.

...NO, SIR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S CAUSING IT. THE SATELLITE'S NOT RESPONDING TO OUR COMMANDS ANYMORE, IT'S--

YES, SIR...







MR. PRESIDENT,
A HURRICANE CAUSED
BY YOUR WEATHER
SATELLITE HAS ENTERED
RUSSIA, AND DEVASTATED
SEVERAL VILLAGES.
WE --

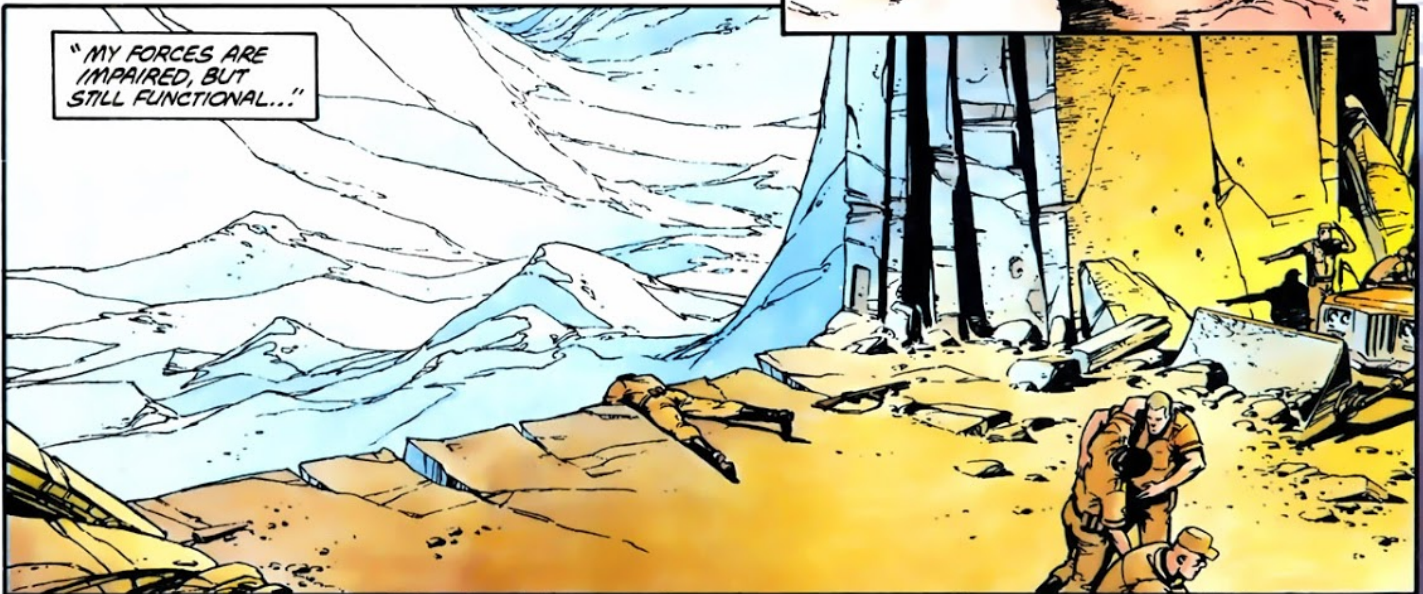
"MR. GORBACHEV, I
ASSURE YOU, THIS IS
NOT OUR DOING,
SOME OUTSIDE FORCE
HAS TAKEN OVER
OUR SATELLITE, AND--"



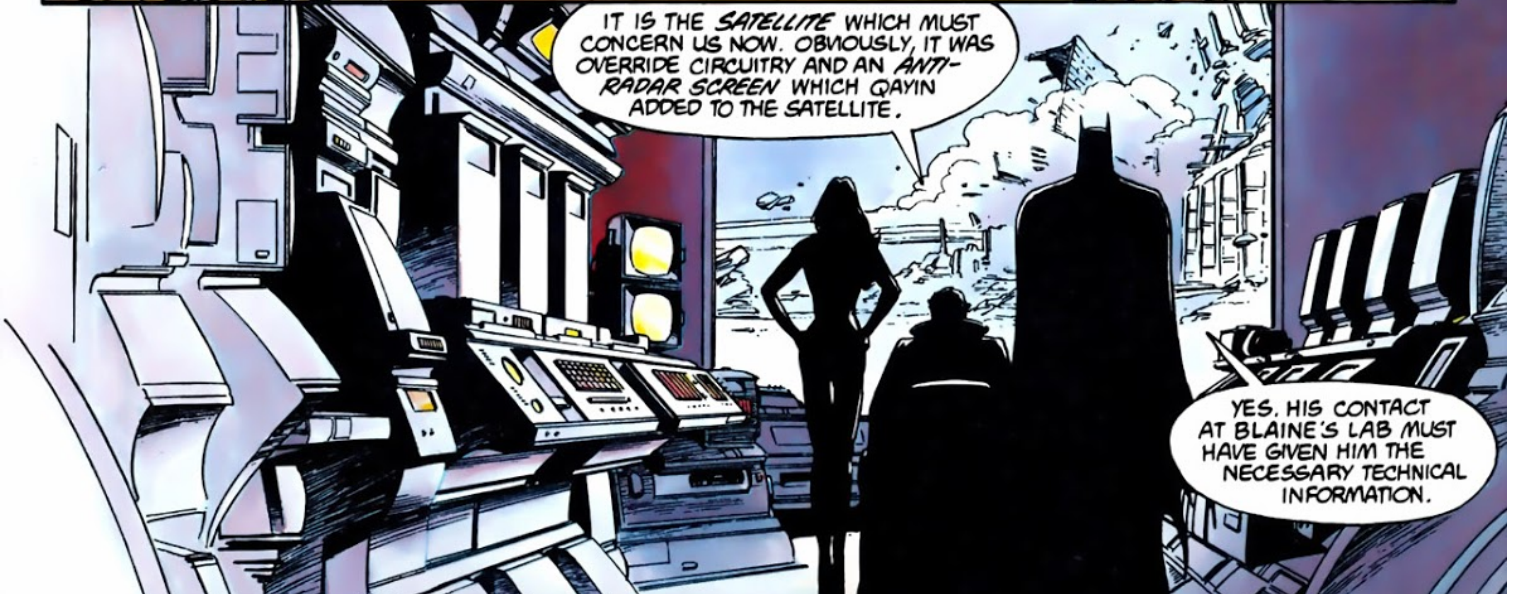
"PERHAPS SO, PERHAPS NOT. HOWEVER,
IF THIS HURRICANE COMES WITHIN ONE
HUNDRED MILES OF MOSCOW, IT WILL BE
CONSIDERED AN ACT OF WAR. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?"

YES.

"GOOD DAY, MR.
PRESIDENT. I
HOPE WE WILL
SPEAK AGAIN."

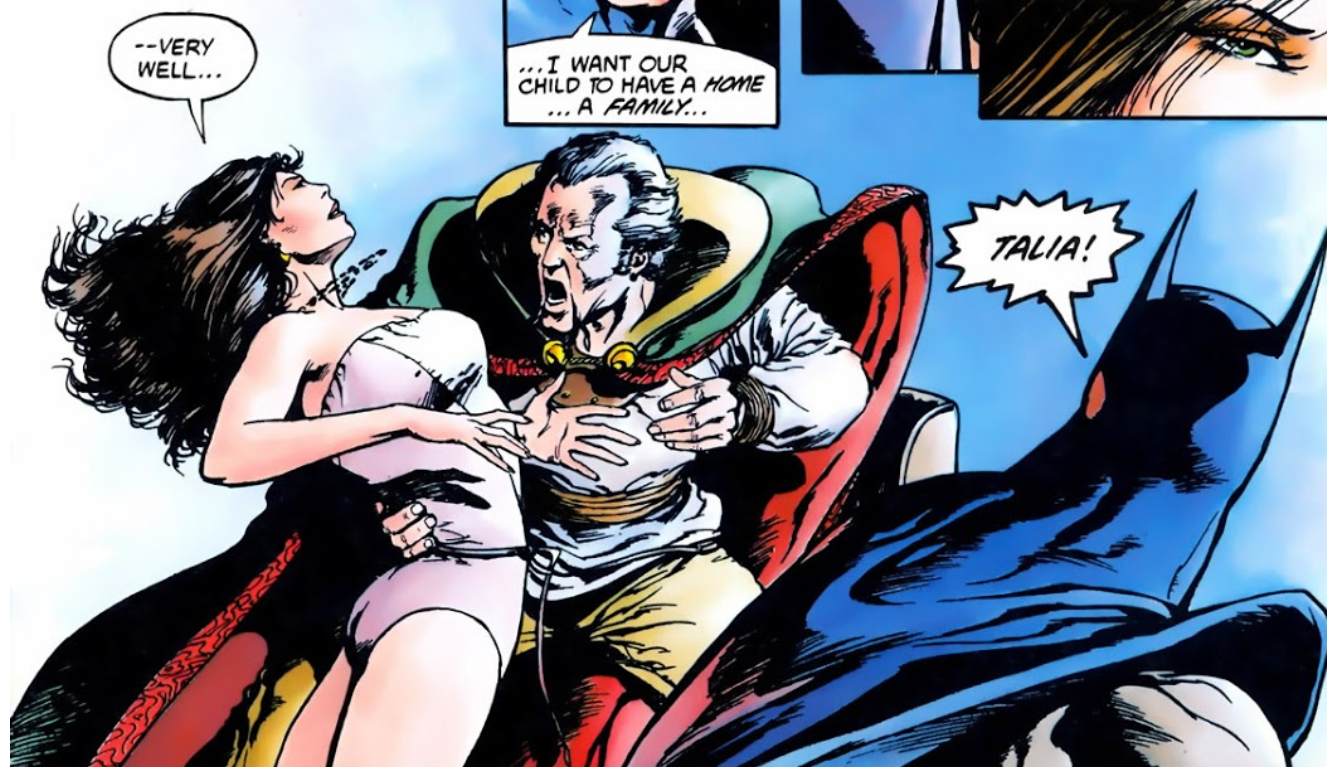
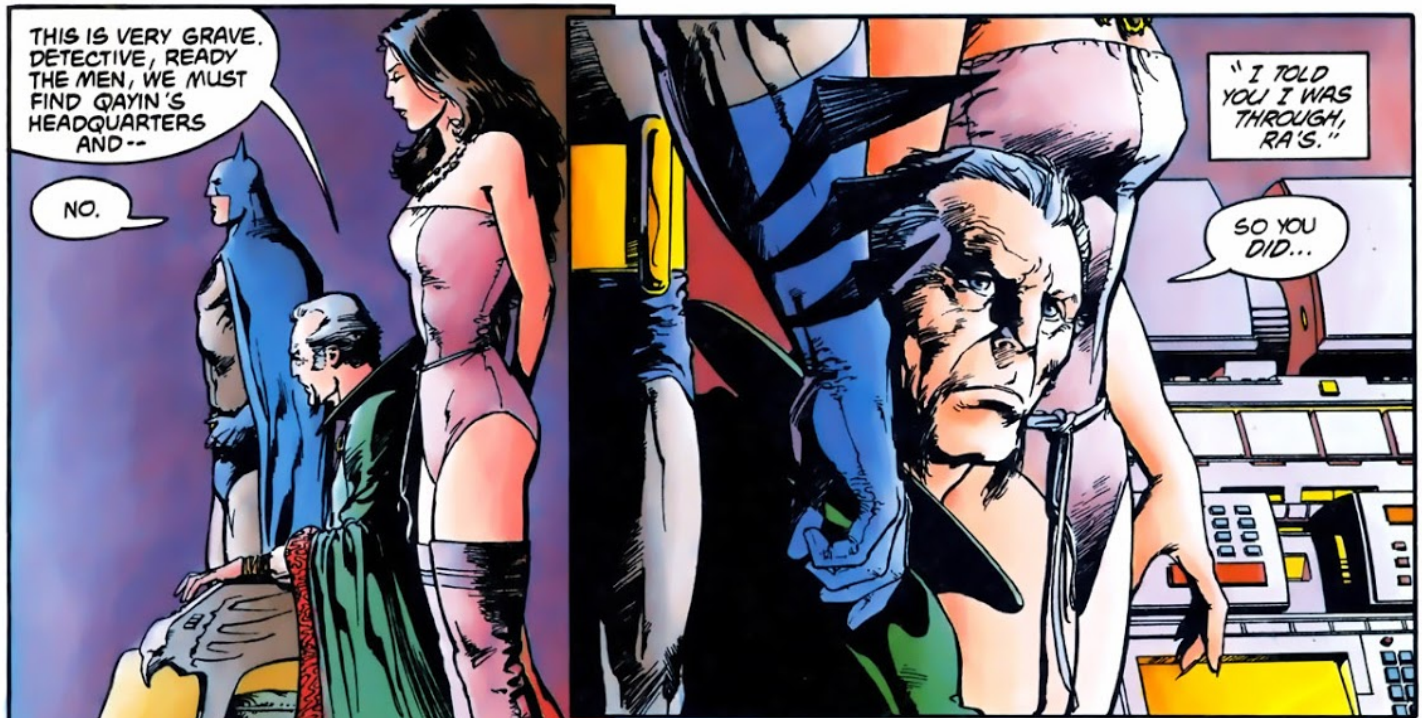


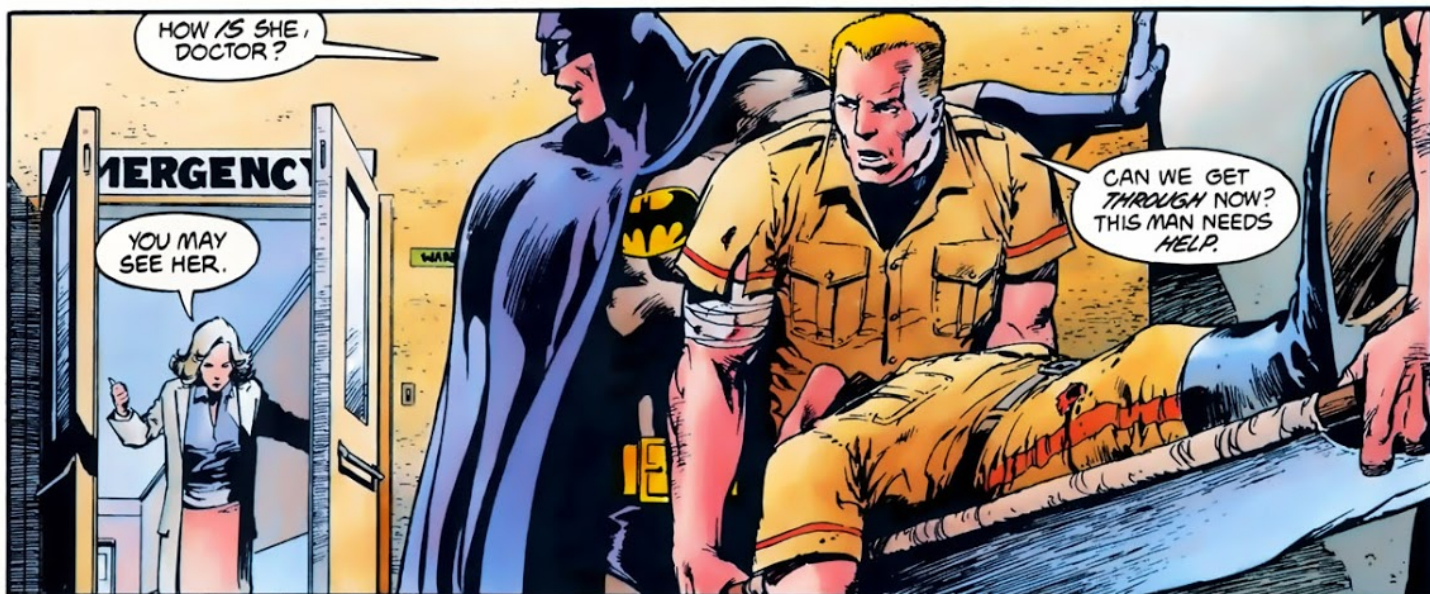
"MY FORCES ARE
IMPAIRED, BUT
STILL FUNCTIONAL..."



IT IS THE SATELLITE WHICH MUST
CONCERN US NOW. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS
OVERRIDE CIRCUITRY AND AN ANTI-
RADAR SCREEN WHICH GAYIN
ADDED TO THE SATELLITE.

YES. HIS CONTACT
AT BLAINE'S LAB MUST
HAVE GIVEN HIM THE
NECESSARY TECHNICAL
INFORMATION.



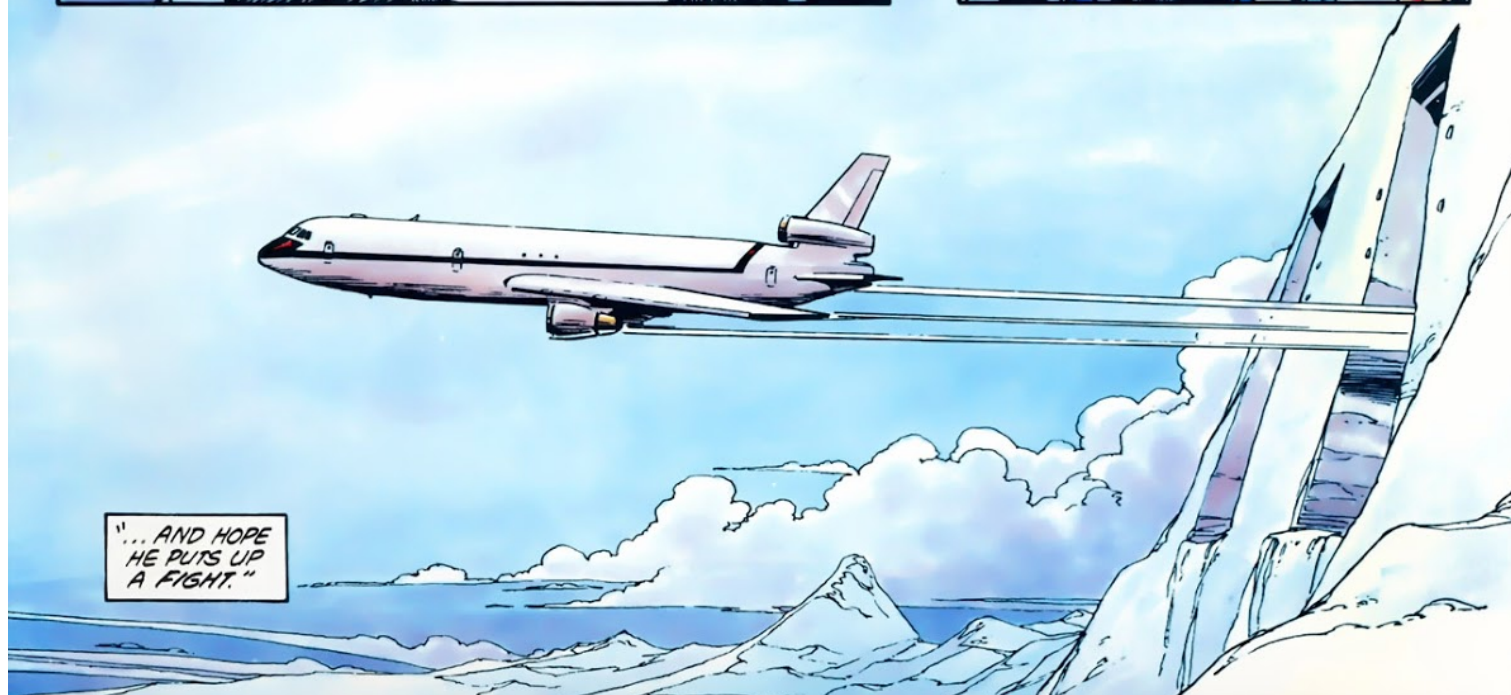


"... ALL THE STRIFE OF THE RAID... ALL THE EXERTION..."



"BELOVED, I AM VERY SORRY."





FINDING HIM WILL BE A TASK, DETECTIVE. A DEVICE OF MY INVENTION MAY BE ABLE TO TRACE THE SATELLITE'S TRANSMISSIONS TO THEIR SOURCE, SO--

UNNECESSARY, RA'S.

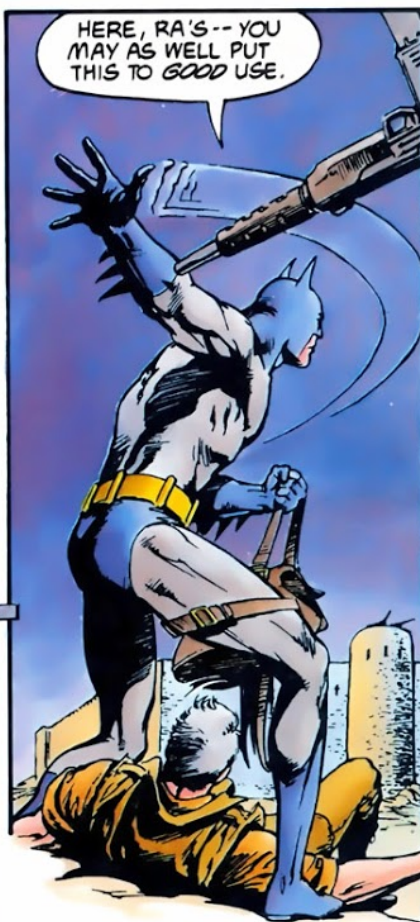
OF
COURSE.

AT ONCE,
MR. QAYIN.





GAAAKK--!



HERE, RA'S-- YOU MAY AS WELL PUT THIS TO *GOOD* USE.



MY THANKS, DETECTIVE...



... THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WOULD *NOT* HAVE STOPPED HIM.

YES.



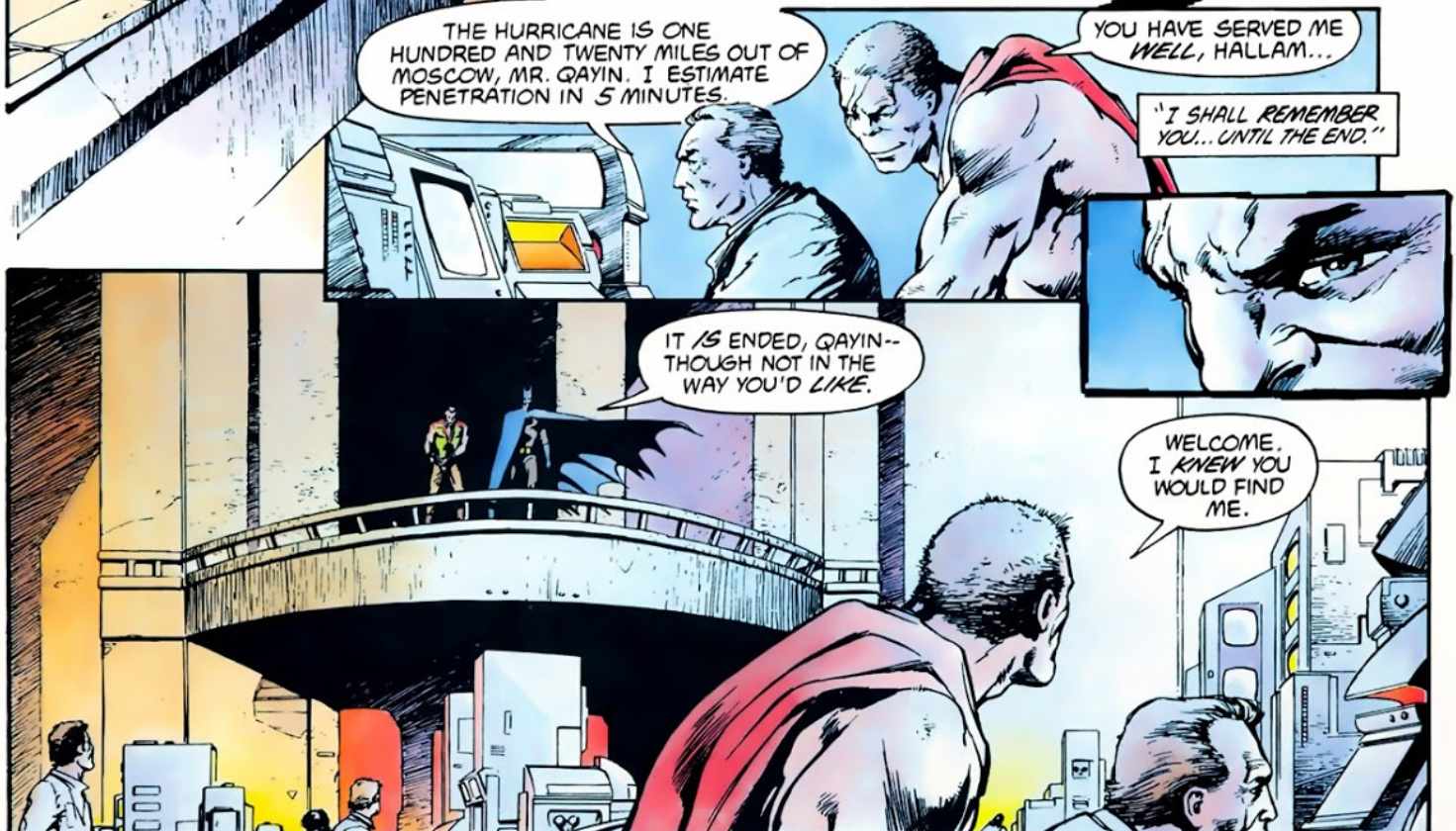
"THE BATTLE GOES WELL, DETECTIVE. MY MEN HAVE SECURED THE PERIMETER..."



... BUT THERE STILL REMAINS THE *INTERIOR*, WHERE QAYIN WILL BE AT HIS MOST *DANGEROUS*.

GOOD...







THEN YOU HAVE TO KNOW IT'S OVER.

"I KNOW NO SUCH THING..."



"...I REMAIN TO BE CONVINCED."



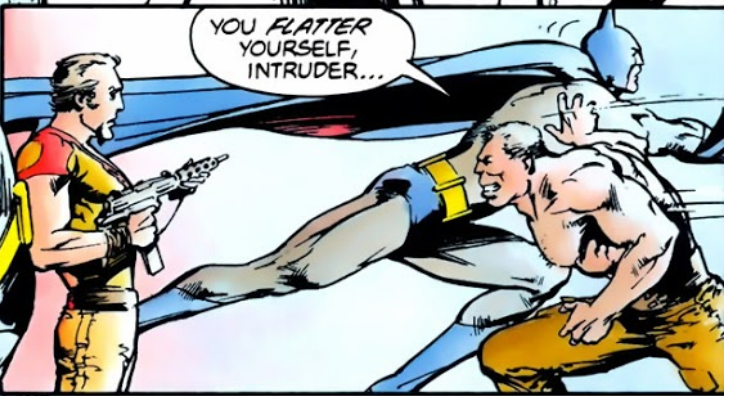
RA'S, DEACTIVATE THE RADAR SCREEN CONTROLS...



... GAYIN IS MINE.



AS YOU WISH, DETECTIVE.



YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, INTRUDER...



...MY INTEREST IS ONLY IN AL GHUL!

THUNK





NO MATTER
MY CAMPAIGN
MAY BE
SET BACK...



"... BUT IT
MUST BE
DONE."

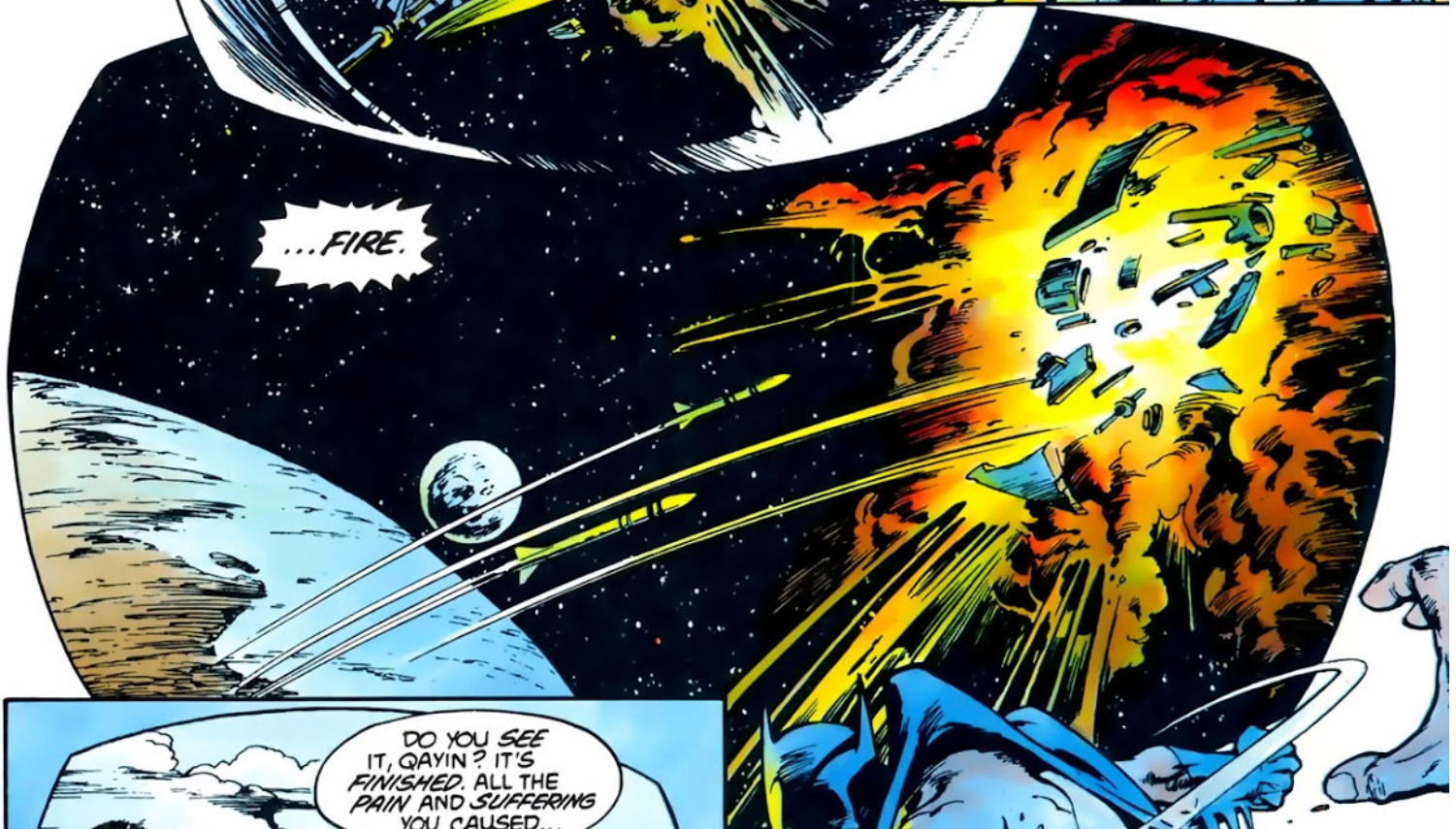


SIR, I'VE
GOT THE
SATELLITE
BACK.

SECURE
COORDINATES
AND RELAY
TO--



-- MISSILE
COMMAND,
LOCKING
COORDINATES...



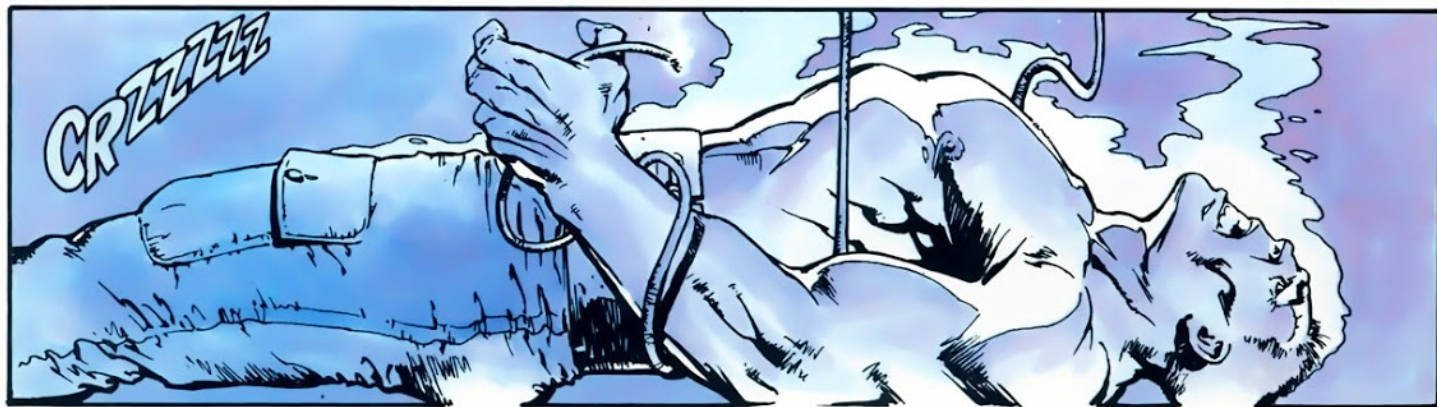
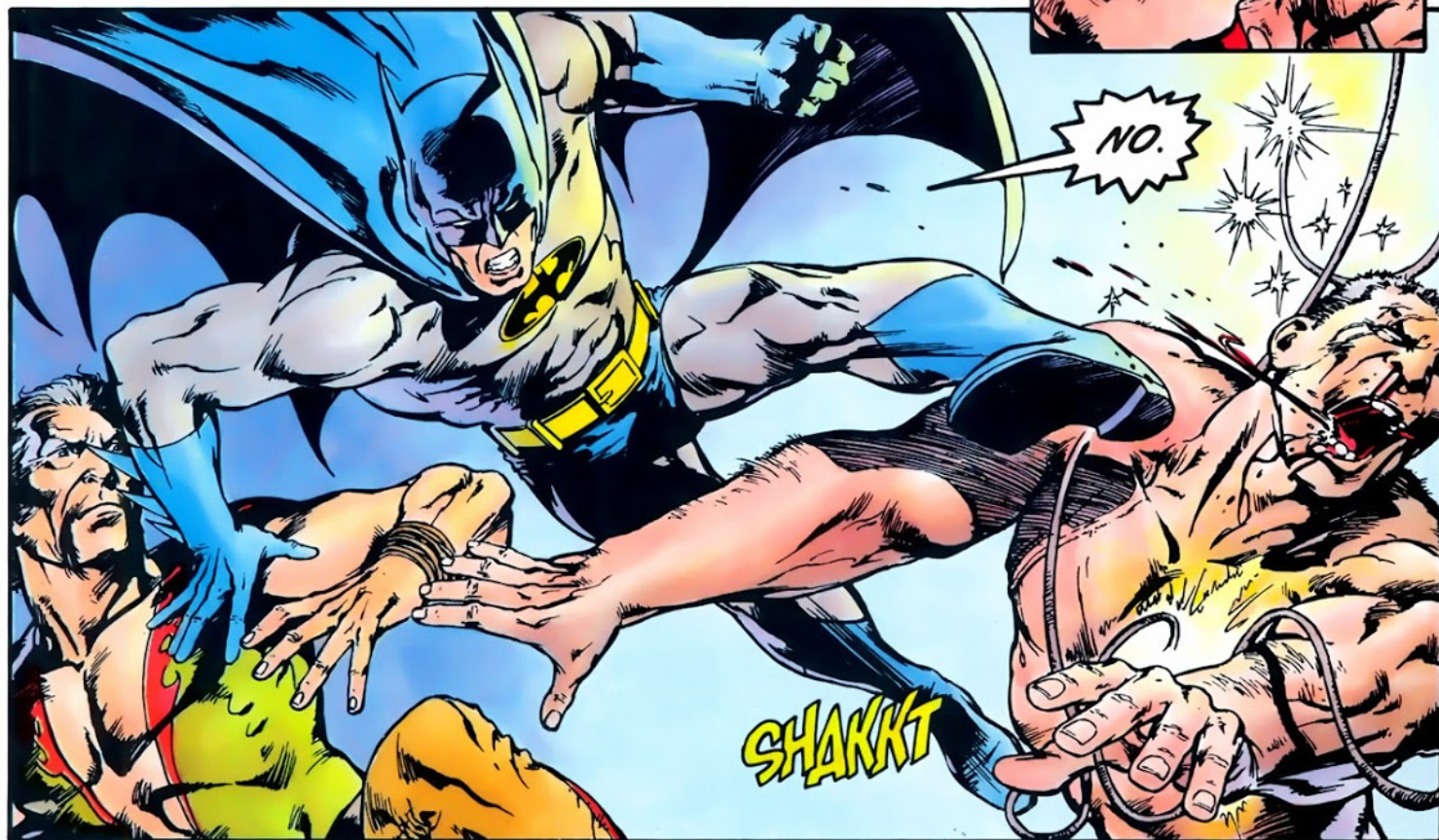
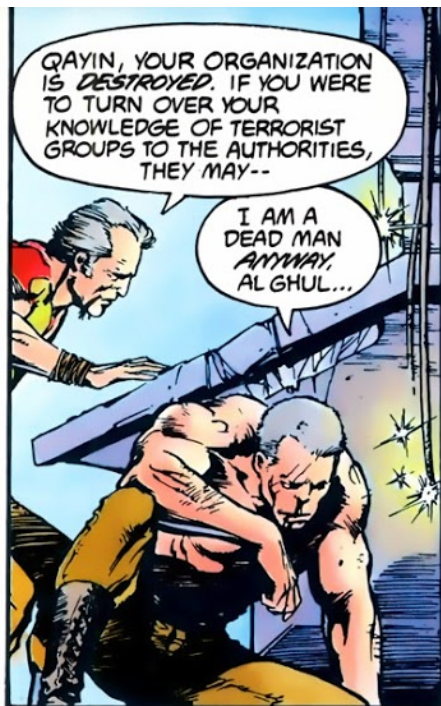
... FIRE.

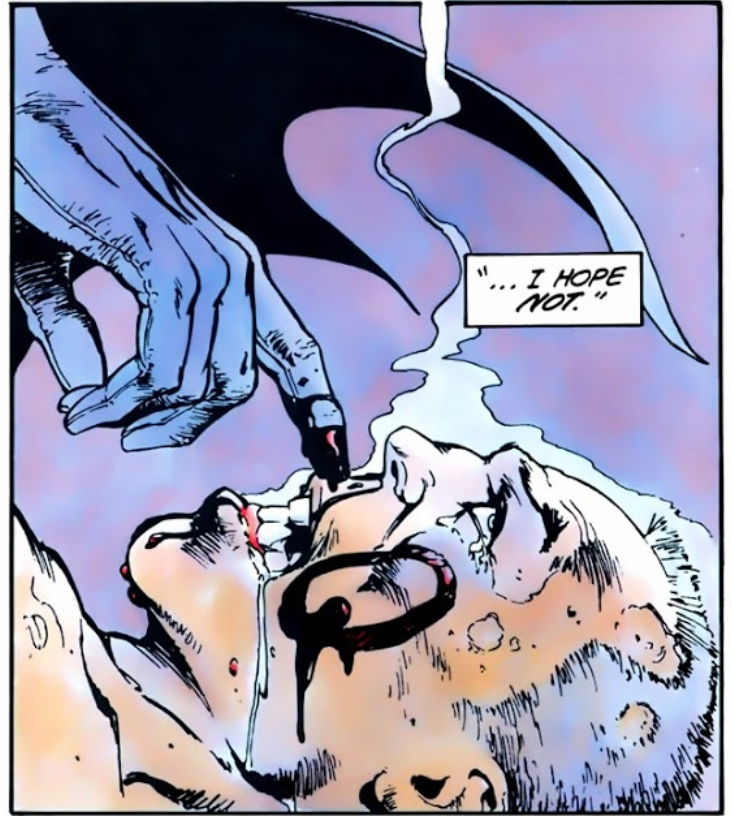


DO YOU SEE
IT, QAYIN? IT'S
FINISHED. ALL THE
PAIN AND SUFFERING
YOU CAUSED...



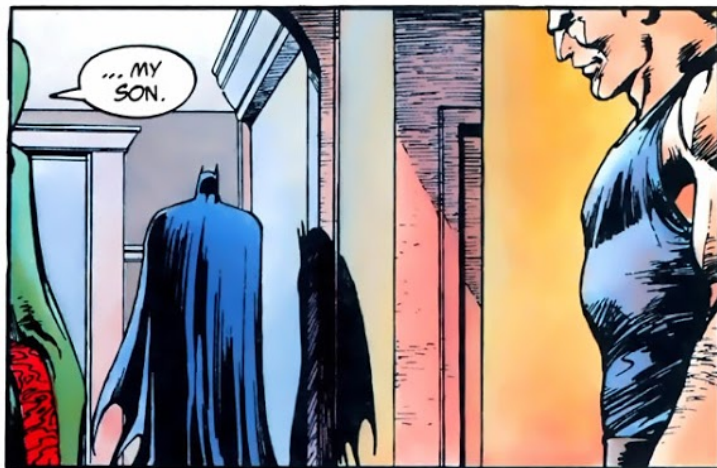
... ALL FOR
NOTHING.



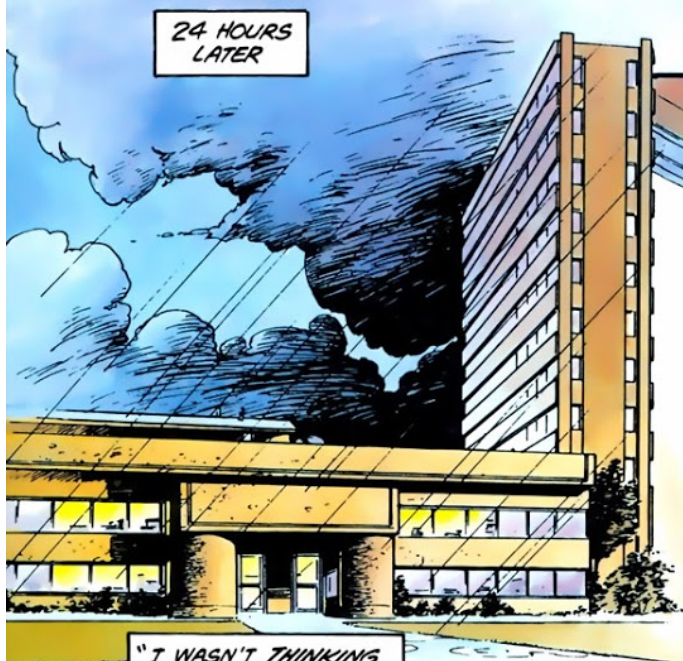




I, TOO, AM SORRY...



... MY SON.

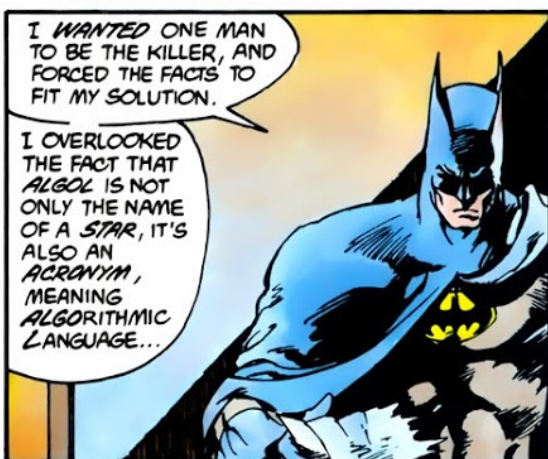


24 HOURS LATER

"... I THOUGHT I KNEW WHO HARRIS BLAINE MEANT BY HIS DYING MESSAGE, ALGOL, BUT I WAS WRONG."



"I WASN'T THINKING DURING OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTER..."



I WANTED ONE MAN TO BE THE KILLER, AND FORCED THE FACTS TO FIT MY SOLUTION.

I OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT ALGOL IS NOT ONLY THE NAME OF A STAR, IT'S ALSO AN ACRONYM, MEANING ALGORITHMIC LANGUAGE...



... A LANGUAGE USED IN PROGRAMMING A COMPUTER

A COMPUTER EXPERT WOULD KNOW THAT...



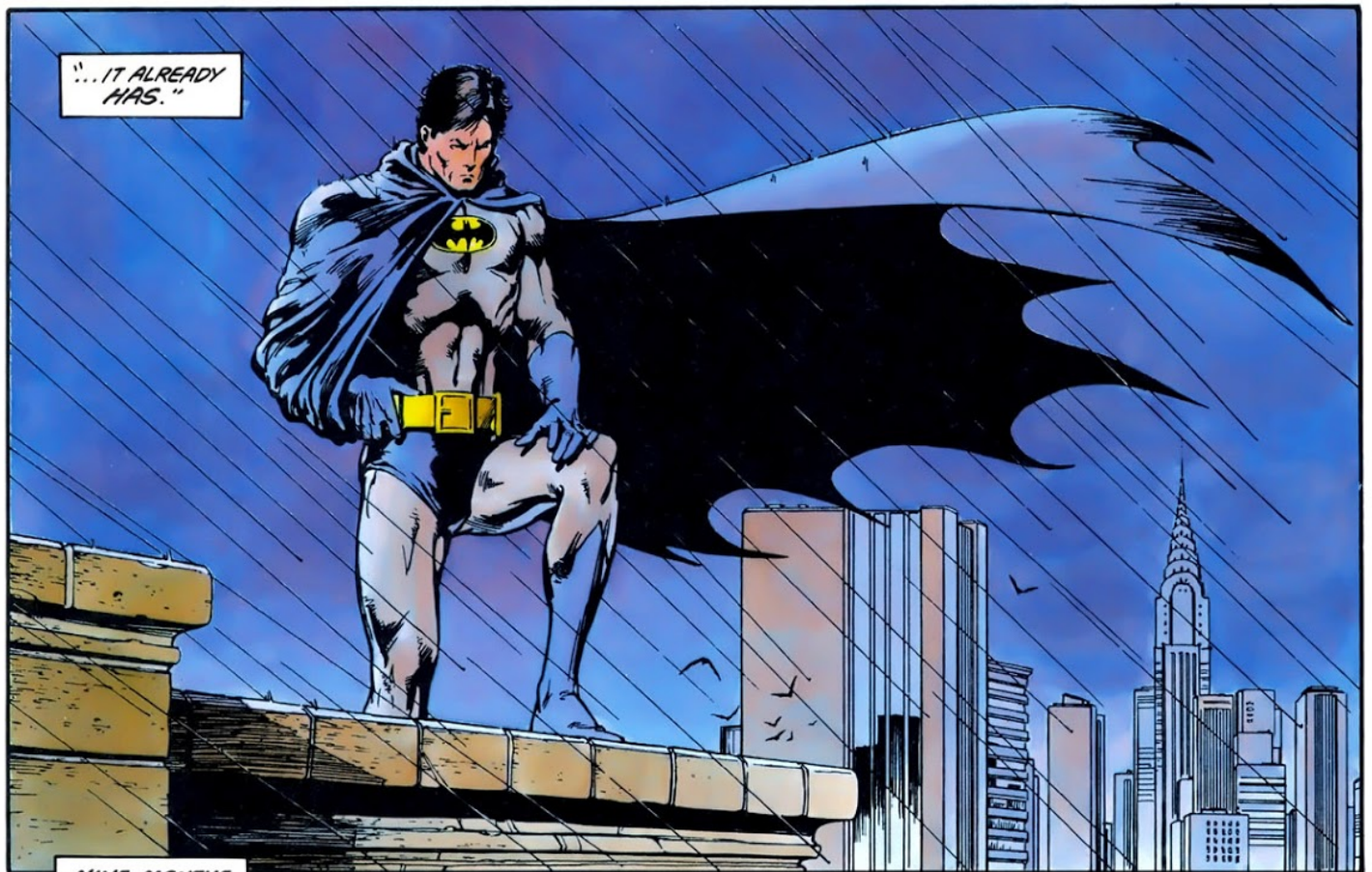
"...WOULDN'T HE, DR. PEARSON?"

AT LAST IT'S OVER. I'M GLAD.

I NEEDED MONEY... ALWAYS HAVE. I SOLD COPIES OF HARRIS' PLANS TO GAYN. THEY SAID NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW.

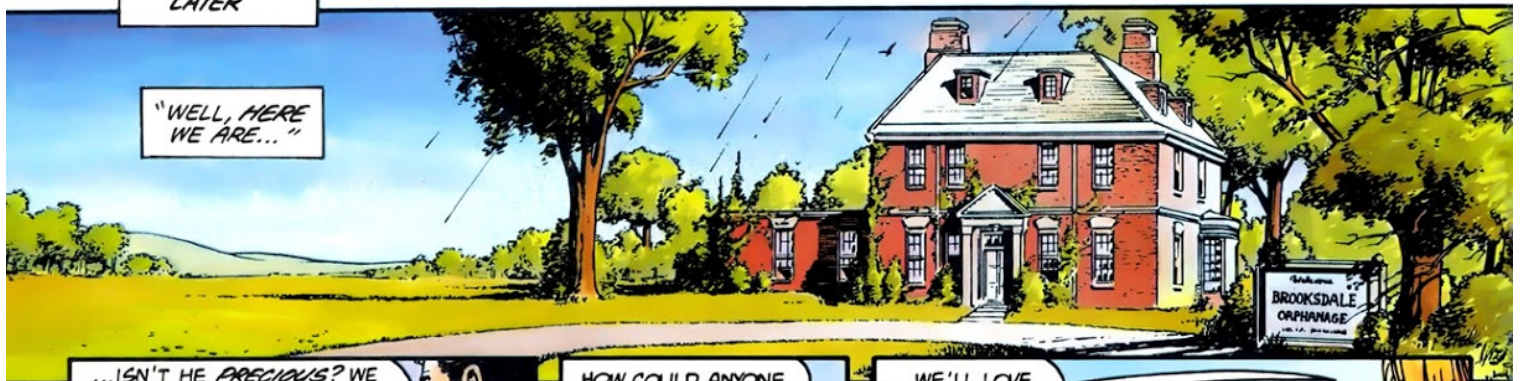
BUT HARRIS KNEW. I TOLD MYSELF I HAD TO DO IT. I DIDN'T.





"...IT ALREADY HAS."

NINE MONTHS LATER



"WELL, HERE WE ARE..."



"...ISN'T HE PRECIOUS? WE JUST FOUND HIM ON OUR DOORSTEP, ONE MORNING."

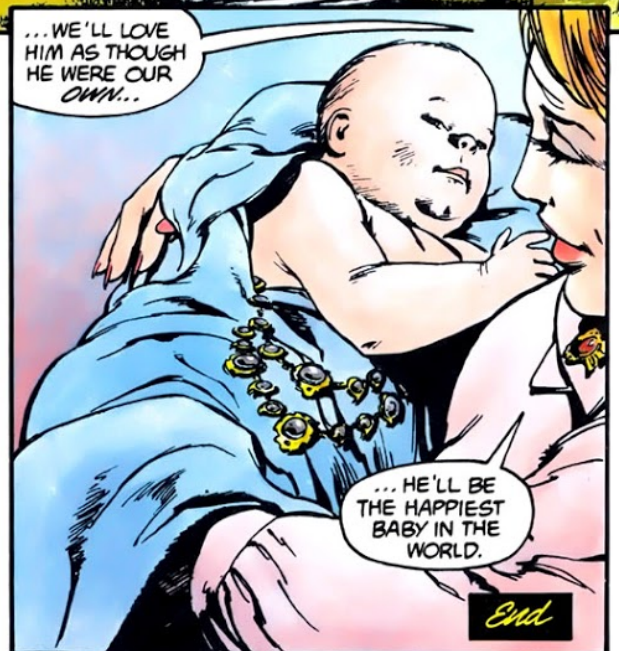
HE'S PERFECT.



HOW COULD ANYONE GIVE A BABY LIKE THIS UP?

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY... BUT IT'S A REAL BLESSING FOR US.

YES...



"...WE'LL LOVE HIM AS THOUGH HE WERE OUR OWN..."

"...HE'LL BE THE HAPPIEST BABY IN THE WORLD."

End

PART FOUR THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME



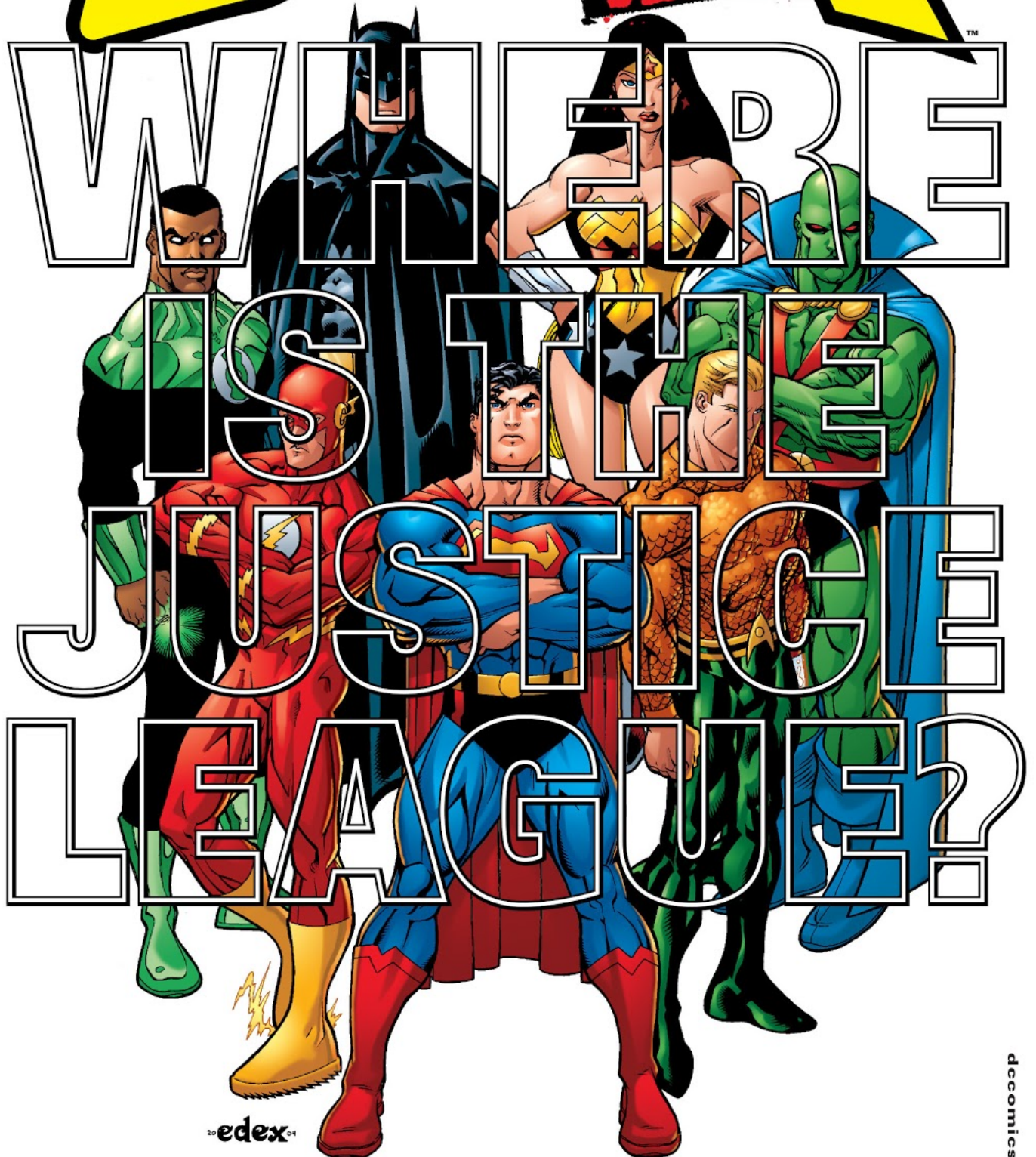


JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA®

GRANT
MORRISON
ED
McGUINNESS
DEXTER
VINES

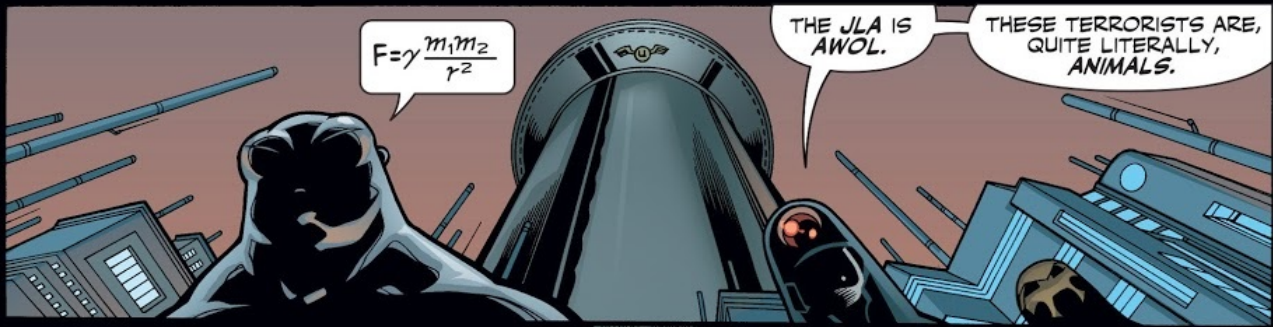
1
JAN 05
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

JLA
CLASSIFIED



edex 04

dccomics.com



$$F = \gamma \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

THE JLA IS
AWOL.

THESE TERRORISTS ARE,
QUITE LITERALLY,
ANIMALS.



WANNA BET
THE INTERNATIONAL
ULTRAMARINE CORPS
CAN WRAP THIS LITTLE
INSURRECTION UP
IN...WHAT?

LET'S
GIVE IT TEN
MINUTES?

WHO NEEDS
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

ISLAND OF THE MIGHTY

GRANT MORRISON WRITER ED MCGUINNESS PENCILLER DEXTER VINES INKER
DAVE MCCAIG COLORIST PHIL BALSMAN LETTERER MICHAEL SIGLAIN ASSISTANT EDITOR MIKE CARLIN EDITOR



SHOCK AND
AWE, GENTLE-
MEN.

AFRICA: NOW

WARMAKER
ONE TO
KNIGHT!

YOU ARE
CLEAR TO GO,
KNIGHT!

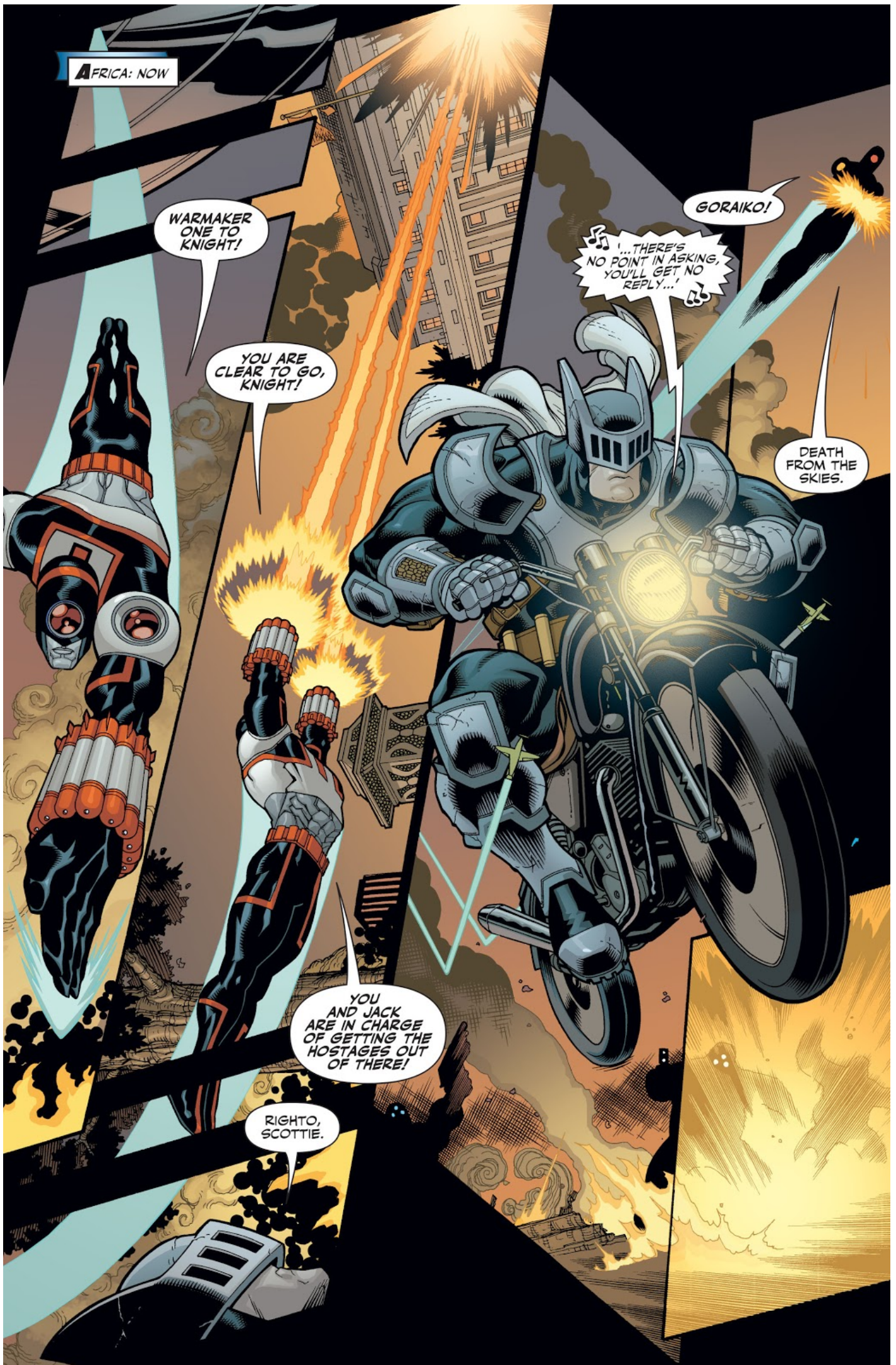
GORAIKO!

♪ ...THERE'S
NO POINT IN ASKING,
YOU'LL GET NO
REPLY...! ♪

DEATH
FROM THE
SKIES.

YOU
AND JACK
ARE IN CHARGE
OF GETTING THE
HOSTAGES OUT
OF THERE!

RIGHTO,
SCOTTIE.



...AN' I CAN
KILL YEZ ALL IN A
THOUSAND **MORE**
STUPID, UNDIGNIFIED
WAYS!

**DON'T
TRY IT ON
WITH OUL JACK
O'LANTERN!**

So
Goraiko's
wrath

As a flower
opens to the
sun

HUP!

NOW
THEN.

WHERE
ARE
THESE...

...
HOSTAGES
...?





...PRESIDENTIAL SUITE!

WARMAKER
DUST-CAMS
DEPLOYED!

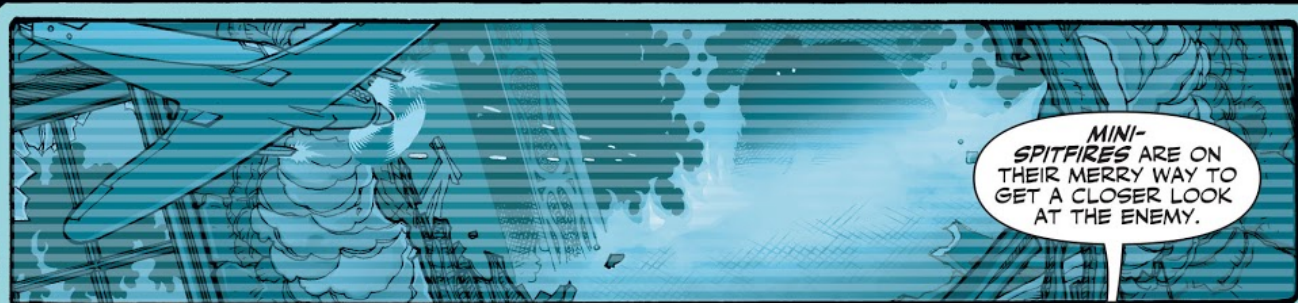
KNIGHT!

CHECK.



KNIGHT TO
SQUIRE!

BERYL, I'M
CHASING WARMAKER'S
VAPOR TRAIL INTO THE
PALACE NOW.



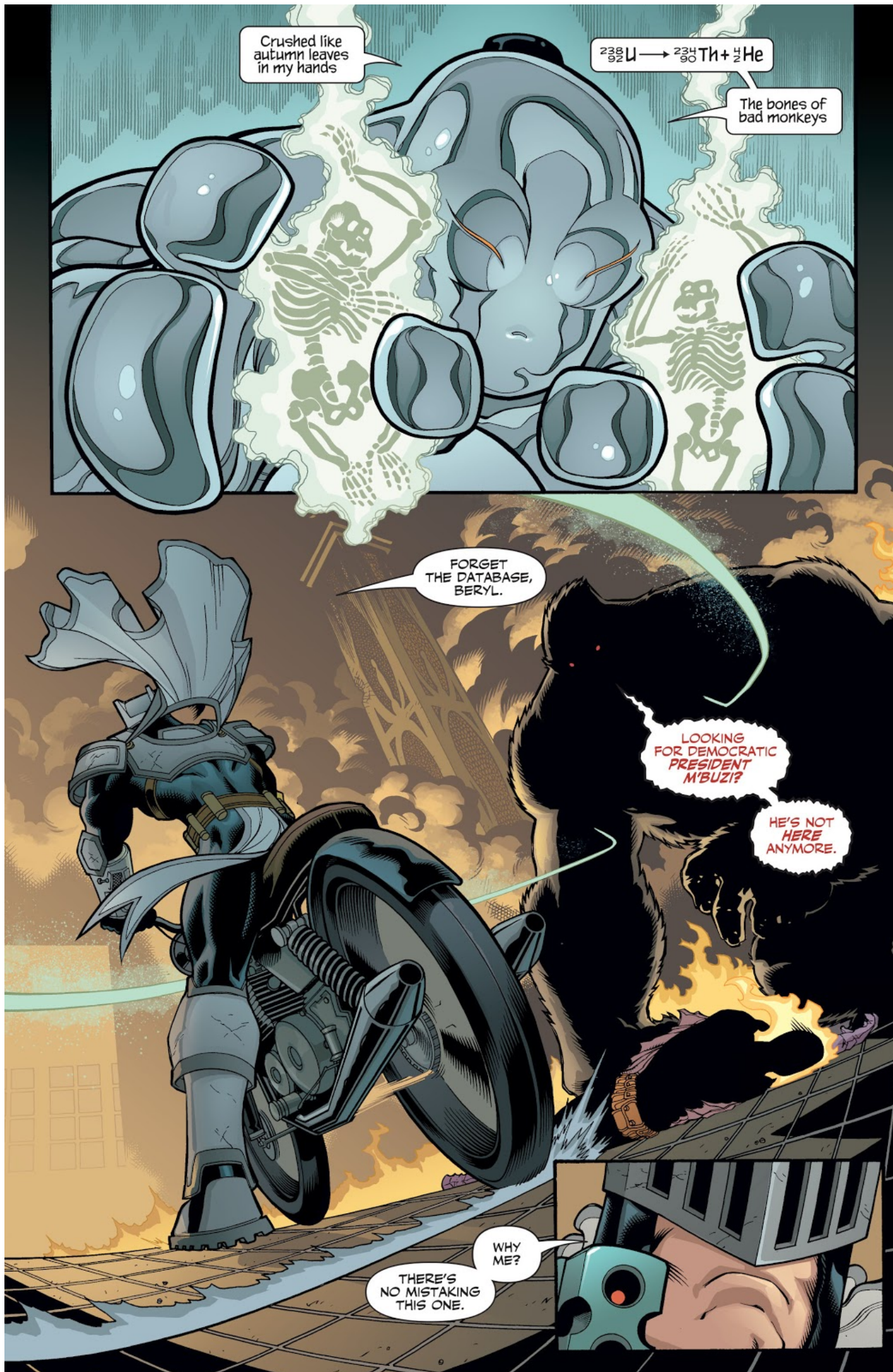
MINI-
SPITFIRES ARE ON
THEIR MERRY WAY TO
GET A CLOSER LOOK
AT THE ENEMY.



HE'S A
BIGGUN,
EY?

GIVE US HALF
A MO', WE'LL HAVE
HIM MATCHED UP IN THE
VILLAIN DATABASE,
CYRIL.

GORAIKO!
HOW'S YOUR
END, MATE?





GRODD.

IT'S GRODD!

SUPER-GORILLA GRODD!

GET OUT OF THERE, CYRIL!

AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOSTAGES...

I ATE THEM ALL!

AAAUURRRRR

AND NOW I'M GOING TO EAT YOU!



EVER THE
CHARMER.

I'LL TAKE A
RAIN CHECK,
MAGILLA.

JACK?



I'VE ONLY
THE THREE RIBS *LEFT*,
CYRIL! THE HAIRY
BUGGER'S ON *P.C.P.*
OR SOMETHIN'...

PUT ONE
OF US OUT OF
OUR MISERY, FOR
CRYING OUT
LOUD!

YOU CAN'T
HATE ME THIS
MUCH!



ACTUALLY
I *CAN* AND
I DO.

BUT I WANTED
TO SHOW YOU MY
MICROWAVE GUN,
JACK. EXPENSIVE
NEW TOY.

EVER FANCY
SEEING A *2-TON*
GORILLA BEING SICK?
I KNOW IT'S ALWAYS
BEEN A DREAM OF
MINE...



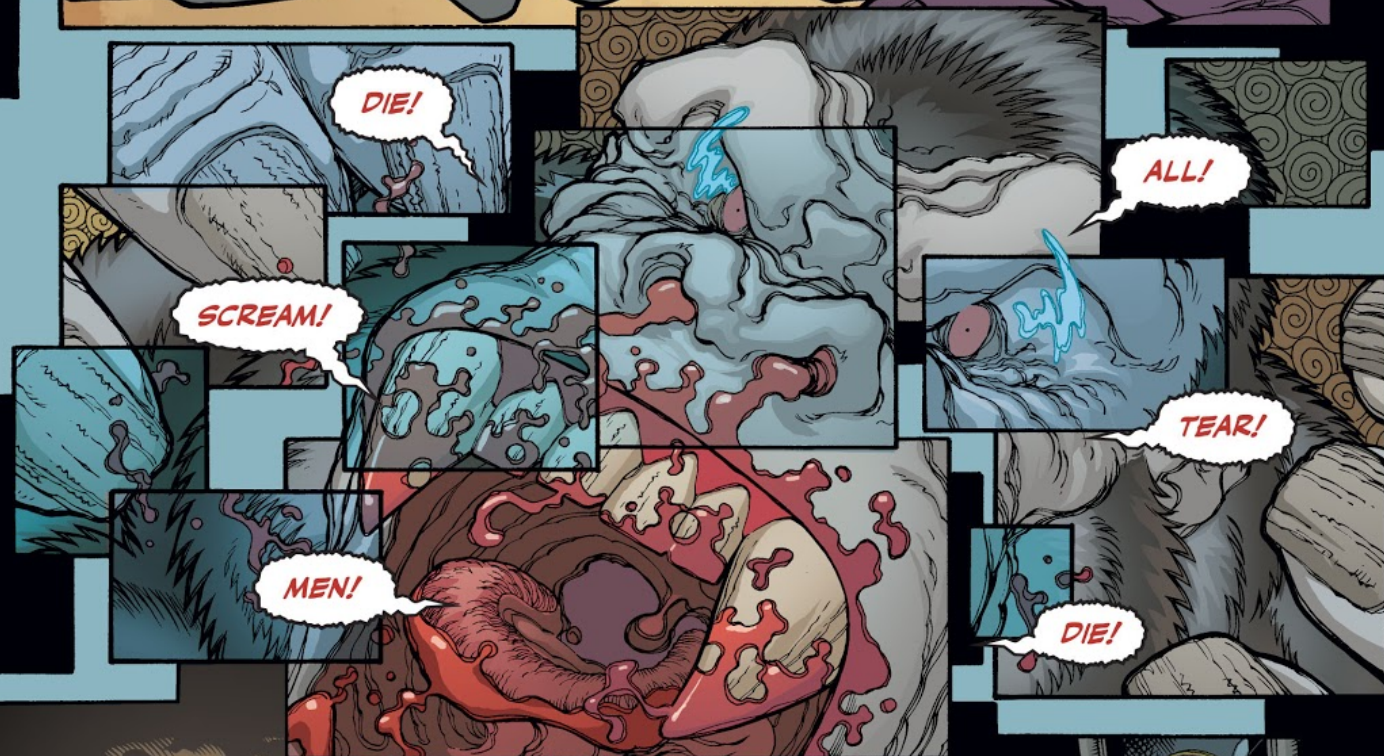
RRAUUUUUU



SEE, THEY HAVE THIS
VULNERABLE AREA IN THE
BRAIN CALLED...OH,
NEVER MIND...

UP YOU
GET,
JACKIE.

THAT'S
YET **ANOTHER**
PINT YOU OWE
ME.



DIE!

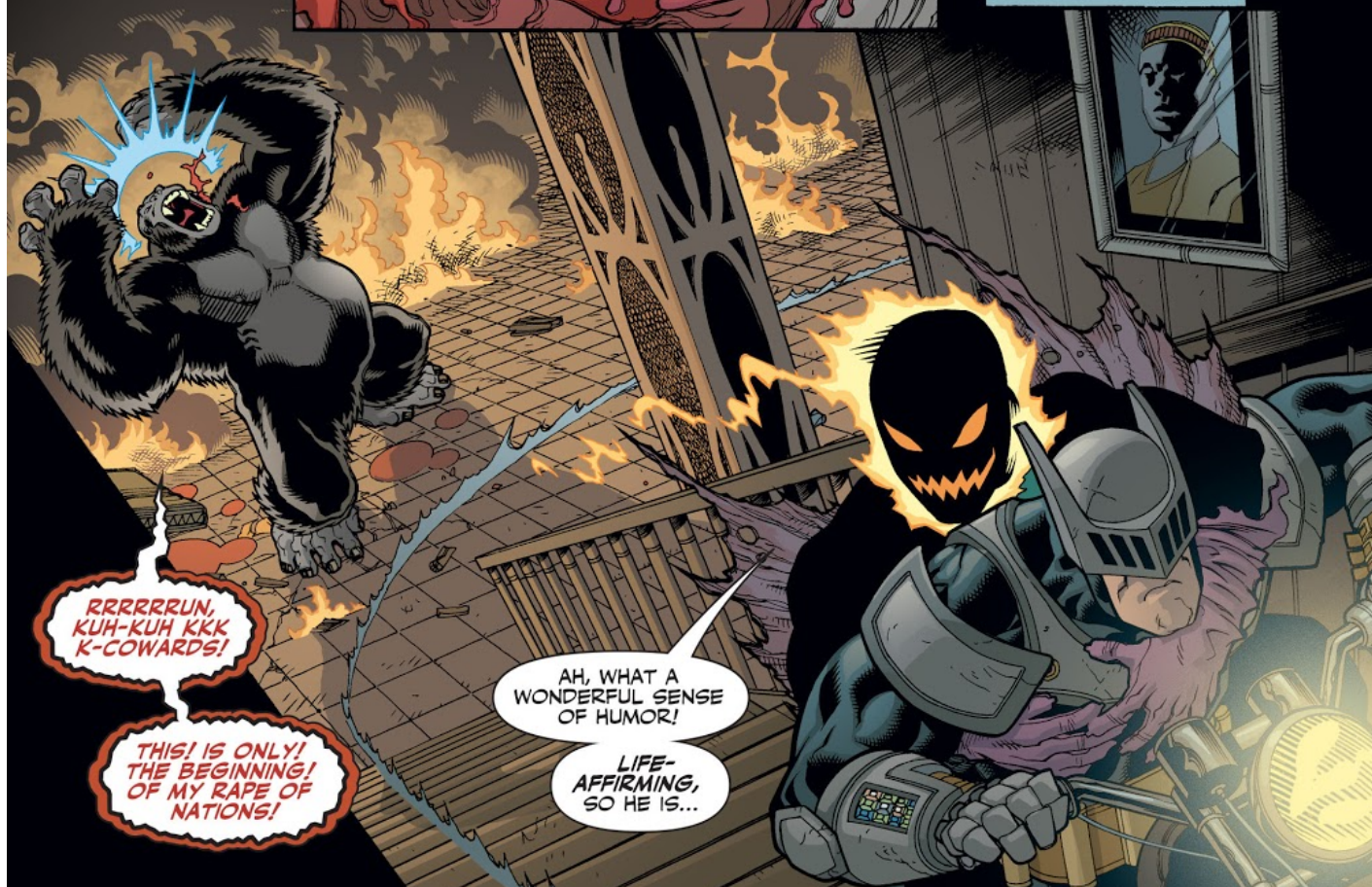
SCREAM!

MEN!

ALL!

TEAR!

DIE!



**RRRRRRUN,
KUH-KUH KKK
K-COWARDS!**

**THIS! IS ONLY!
THE BEGINNING!
OF MY RAPE OF
NATIONS!**

AH, WHAT A
WONDERFUL SENSE
OF HUMOR!

LIFE-
AFFIRMING,
SO HE IS...

WE'LL TEAR YOU FROM YOUR BEDS AND BEHEAD YOU ALL ON YOUR PERFECT LAWNS!

RAZE YOUR CITIES!

EAT YOUR CHILDREN!

I HOPE YOU BLOODY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, CYRIL...

THIS ENT SOME SMALL FRY LIKE THAT "GUY, THE GORILLA GANGSTER" YOU AND YOUR DAD LOCKED UP BACK IN THE DAY.

GRODD RANKS NUMBER THREE ON THE LATEST "GLOBAL MOST WANTED" LIST: NO LESS THAN 18 SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO "EXTERMINATE ALL TRACES OF HUMAN EXISTENCE"...

WHAT WOULD YOU BOYS DO WITHOUT ME?

YOU'LL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR HIS MIND-CONTROL POWERS AN' ALL...

I'M TOO STUBBORN FOR THAT, AND JACK'S TOO THICK.

WE'RE WELL OUT OF IT, BERYL.

NOW, WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO CATCH US BEFORE WE GO "SPLAT"!?

IS THE MASTER IN THE HOUSE?

TAK TAPPITAK
TAK TAK TAPPI

LISTEN UP!

THIS IS THE **BRAINS** OF THE OPERATION; YOUR EVER LUVVIN' **GLOB** IN THE **RAIN ROOM**.

I'M INTERFACED UP TO MY ASS WITH THE NEW **GELATINE** SOFTWARE HERE AND PICKING UP SOME WEIRD **COSMIC PARTICLE** EMISSIONS FROM THE PALACE.

COSMIC IS MY TERRITORY, DAN...

SOON AS I FINISH A LITTLE **EDITING** HERE.

YOU'RE FLUTTERING LIKE AN **ETON SCARF**, JACK.

NEED A SHOULDER TO CRY ON ABOUT YOUR STRUGGLE WITH ANOREXIA?

I COULD CRUSH YER **WINDPIPE** FROM THIS POSITION, YE BIG TOOL...

REWRITE.

CUT.

PASTE.

EDIT COMPLETE.

"AND THE BIKE, WITH BOTH ITS PASSENGERS, WEIGHED LESS THAN A SOAP BUBBLE FOR THE NEXT 33 SECONDS."

LONG ENOUGH TO GET THESE WHINING GIRLS ON THE GROUND...

WARMAKER?

WE SENDING THE BIG GUNS IN TO FINISH GRODD?

TAKKA TAK TAPPI TAKKTAK



UNNNHH!

止

GORAIKO
GOT HIM.

CAREFUL,
SCOTT...

DAN SAYS
THERE'S
SOMETHING
UNUSUAL
HERE.

SO HE
FLATTENED THIS
WHOLE CITY JUST
TO BUILD HIS OWN
MONKEY EMPIRE IN
THE RUINS?

THERE MUST
BE MORE TO
THIS...

HANG ON A
MINUTE...

THERE'S
SOMETHING RIGHT
FUNNY ABOUT
THIS.

WE'RE
GETTING A JLA
CLASSIFIED MATCH
ON THOSE EMISSIONS:
"NEBULA MAN"
FILES.

I DON'T
LIKE THIS.

SQUIRE,
WHAT?...WE'RE
LOSING YOU...

JOHN, I ADVISE
YOU NOT TO USE
YOUR *QUANTUM*
KEYBOARD...

I HAVE TO
INVESTIGATE...

TAPPI
TAKK TAK

iAuuuhh!

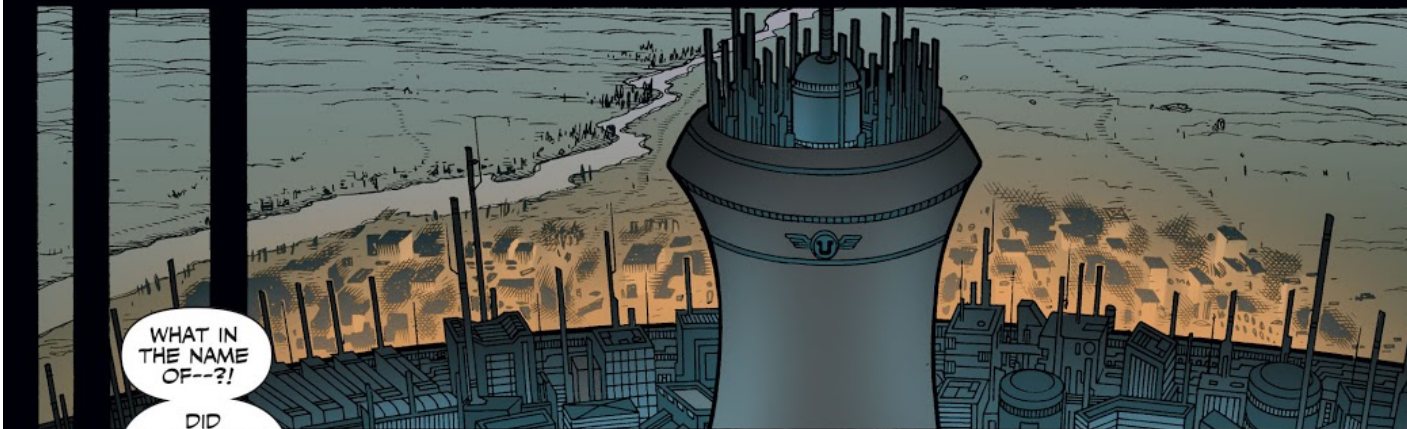
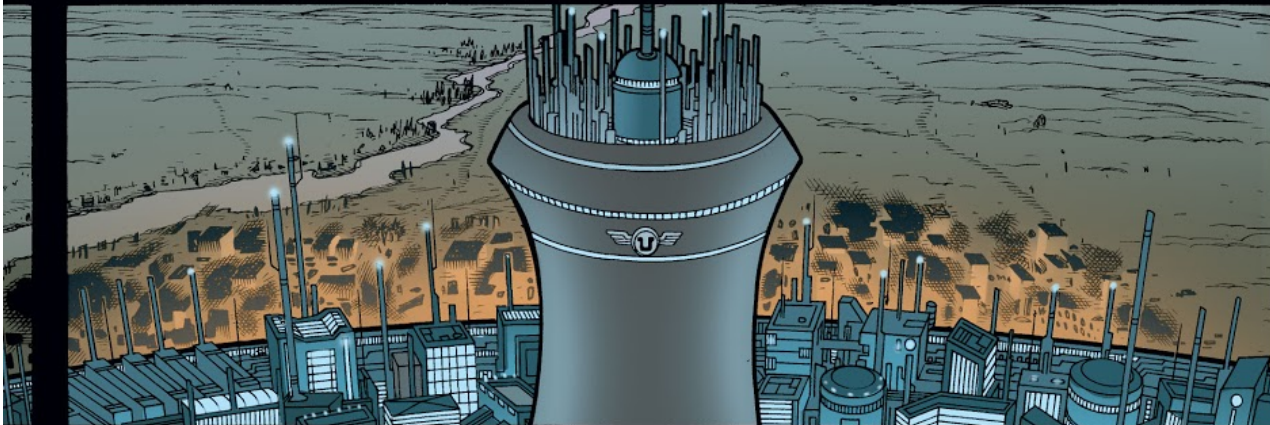
AS IF I
WOULD BUILD
MY EMPIRE
HERE IN THE
DIRT!

I BURNED
KINSHASA SO THAT
ITS LIGHT WOULD
ATTRACT YOUR *SHINING*
CITY LIKE A MOTH
TO A FLAME...

A WHOLE CITY,
WRECKED TO PROVIDE
BAIT...TO ATTRACT
US...

THIS
WHOLE THING'S
A TRAP.

IT'S...IT'S
INTELLIGENT...



WHAT IN THE NAME OF---?!

DID SOMEBODY FORGET TO FEED THE METER?



MASSIVE E.M.P. DETONATION! TOOK OUT MY VISOR GRAPHICS.

KNIGHT TO SQUIRE!

SUPERBIA!

SUPERBIA'S GOING DOWN!

GORAIKO'S HEART JUST SKIPPED AND EMITTED AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE!

ALL POWER IS OUT!



UH-OH.



I SAW THIS
THING, RIGHT?
A CUBE OF
STARS...

THEY'LL ALL
BE *SLEEPING*
...OLYMPIAN,
VIXEN...OH MY
GOD...

WE THOUGHT
THIS WAS GOING
TO BE *EASY*.

IN AND
OUT.

GLOB!
4-DEE!

ANYBODY!

A MANIFOLD!!!!
ABSORBING ME
FLAT!!!FLAT!!!!

!!!!I AM GONE
AND IT GROWS IN
ME A SEED!!!!

INFORMATION!!!
SENT BACKWARDS
THROUGH TIME

BLOODY
'ELL!

BLOODY
'ELL!



NOVEMBER 18.
1:15 AM.

SAVAGERY IS
CROWNED KING.

CIVILIZATION'S
DEFENDERS FALL.



RRINNGGA RRINNGGA RYNNNGGG RRINN

**THE
BATMAN.**

1:25 AM.

MASTER
BRUCE.

THE...
AH..."HOT
LINE."

HOW DID
YOU FIND THIS
NUMBER?

I GAVE
IT TO...
WHO?

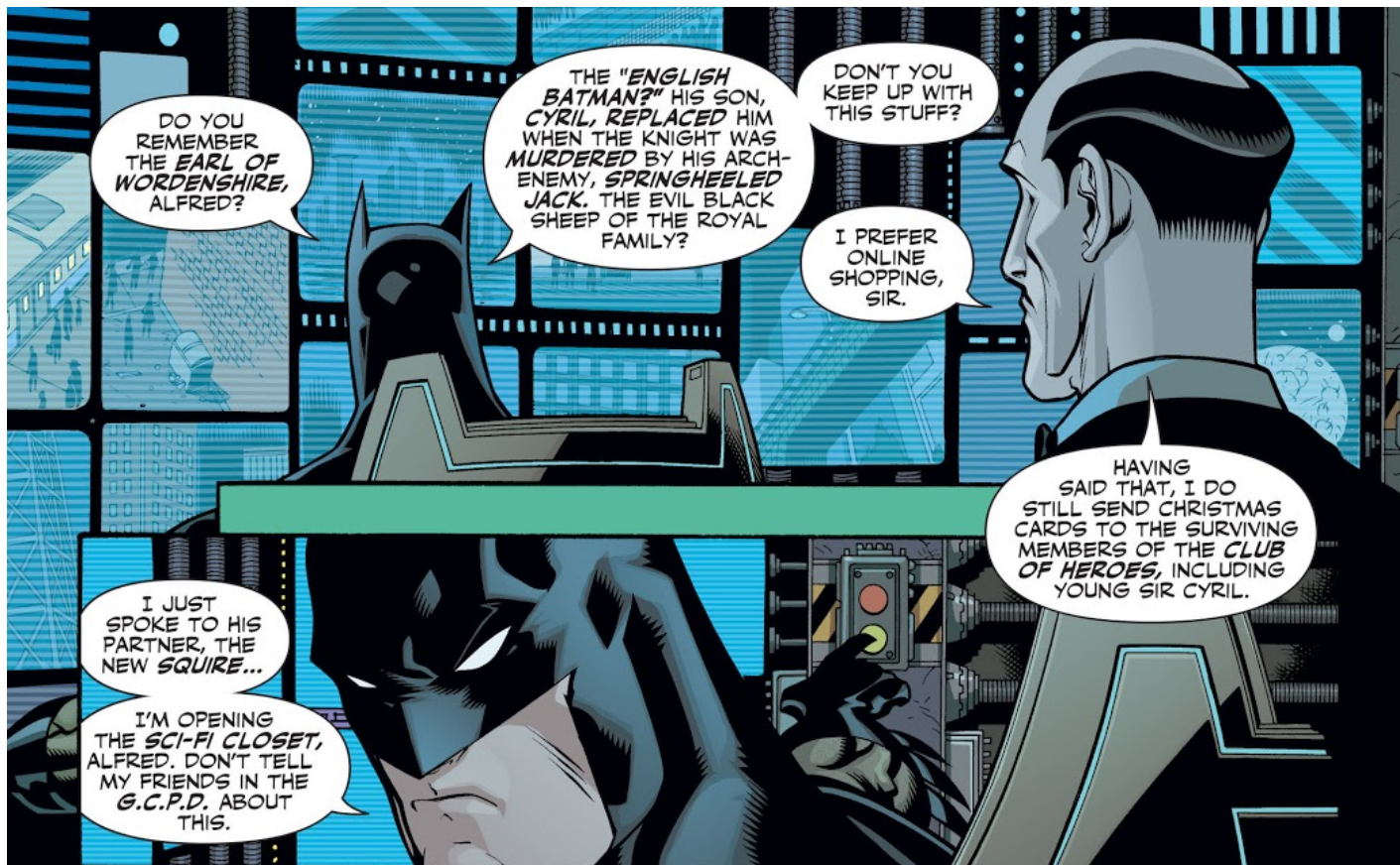
YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT I DON'T
OFFICIALLY
EXIST?

...GRODD?

NO...
THAT *WON'T*
HAPPEN.

I PROMISE.

STAY
RIGHT WHERE
YOU ARE.





...WE'LL
BE AIRBORNE
AGAIN WITHIN
HOURS.

THEN I'LL
SEND MY SUPERMEN
OUT ACROSS THE WORLD,
LIKE GREAT **HAMMERS**
OF WRATH.

SMASH DOWN
THE TOWERS AND
PARLIAMENTS OF EUROPE!
THEN, IN WAVE AFTER WAVE
OF DESTRUCTION, I'LL BURN
OUT THE LAST TRACES OF
THE HUMAN CANCER
"CIVILIZATION."

A GREAT
HARROWING IS
COMING.



LOOK,
I HAVE EX-
PENDED TO FILL
THIS HUMAN'S
SHAPE.

WHAT
ARE YOU, NEH-
BUH-LOH?

NOT
THAT I'M
COMPLAINING
BUT...



MY ORIGINAL
COUNTRY IS IN THE
COLD REGION OF THE
VAMPIRE SUN. I WAS
BORN OF THE ETERNAL
FOGS, THERE IN **LAST**
COUNTRY.

NEH-BUH-LOH
THE HUNTSMAN,
AM I, MASTER OF
THE WILD RIDE.

I PREPARE THE
WAY FOR MY **QUEEN OF**
TERROR, WHO WILL COME
SOON. I WILL SPREAD AT
HER FEET A CARPET OF
SKULLS.

I AM OF
THE OTHER
WORLD.

I HERALD
THE **END** OF
THIS ONE.

NOW LET
US MAKE **WEAPONS**
OF THESE SUPER-
MEN.



S.O.S.!

S.O.--

AGGHHH!

NICE ONE,
BERYL.



Please God,
if you save me
I'll never swear
again.

LUCKY
GIRL.

THAT LASER
CAUTERIZED YOUR
WOUND QUITE
NICELY.

GET IN.

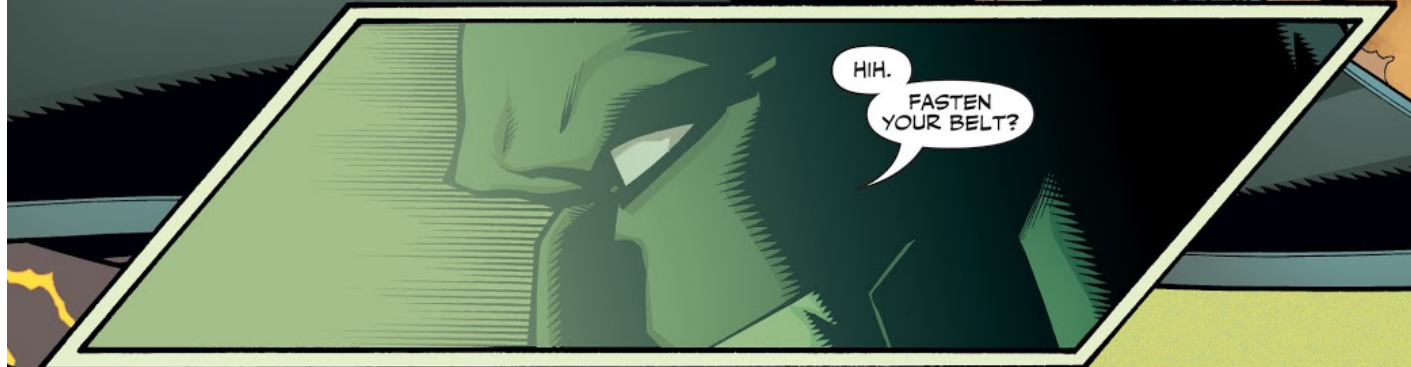


IGNORE
THE *WOBBLE*.
THE GYROSCOPE'S
USELESS IN HOVER
MODE.

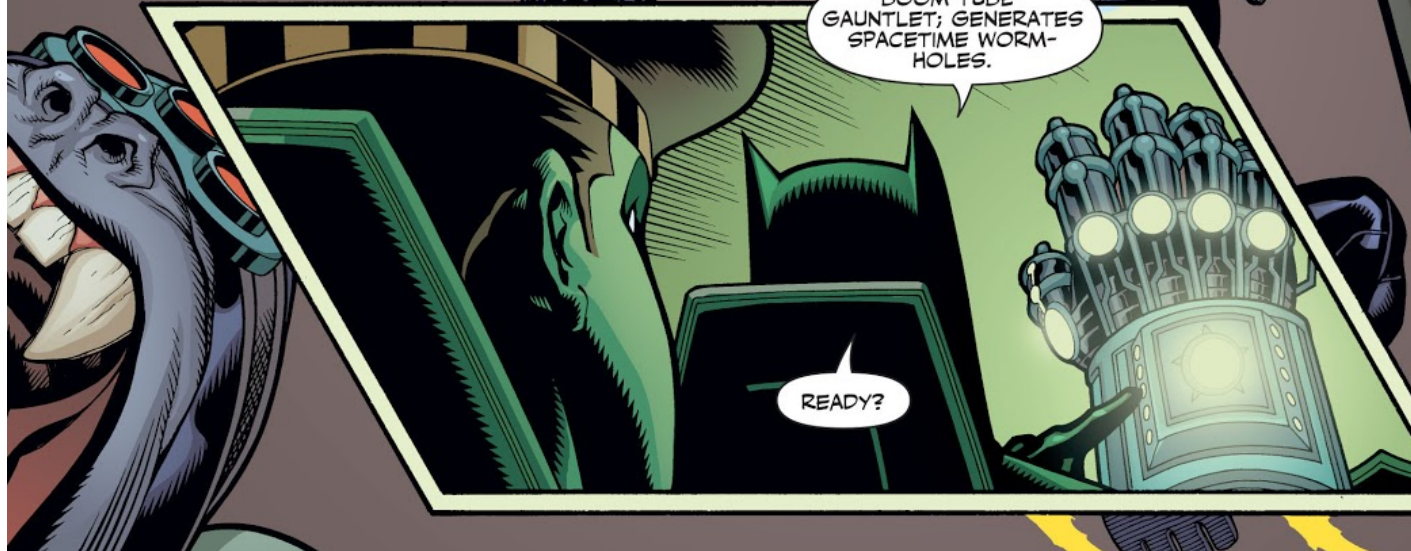
EVER
FLOWN ONE
OF THESE
BEFORE?

A FLYING
SAUCER? YEAH,
EVERY DAY,
RIGHT...

THERE'S
KILLER *JET APES*
RIGHT BEHIND
US.



HIH.
FASTEN
YOUR BELT?



"BOOM TUBE"
GAUNTLET; GENERATES
SPACETIME WORM-
HOLES.

READY?





THE JUSTICE LEAGUE GOT LOST.

SLOW DOWN.

ARE YOU REALLY BATMAN?

NO, I'M GOLDFISH MAN.

CAN'T YOU TELL?

IT'S LIKE THAT IS IT?

HE TALKS ABOUT YOU QUITE A LOT; YOU MADE A BIG IMPRESSION ON THE GUV'NOR WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

I REMEMBER THE KNIGHT WHEN HE WAS THE SQUIRE.

I READ YOUR FILE ON THE WAY; COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT, RIGHT?

I DON'T WANT THAT BIG GORILLA HURTING HIM; HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT...

IN THERE--"THE INFANT UNIVERSE OF QWEWQ."

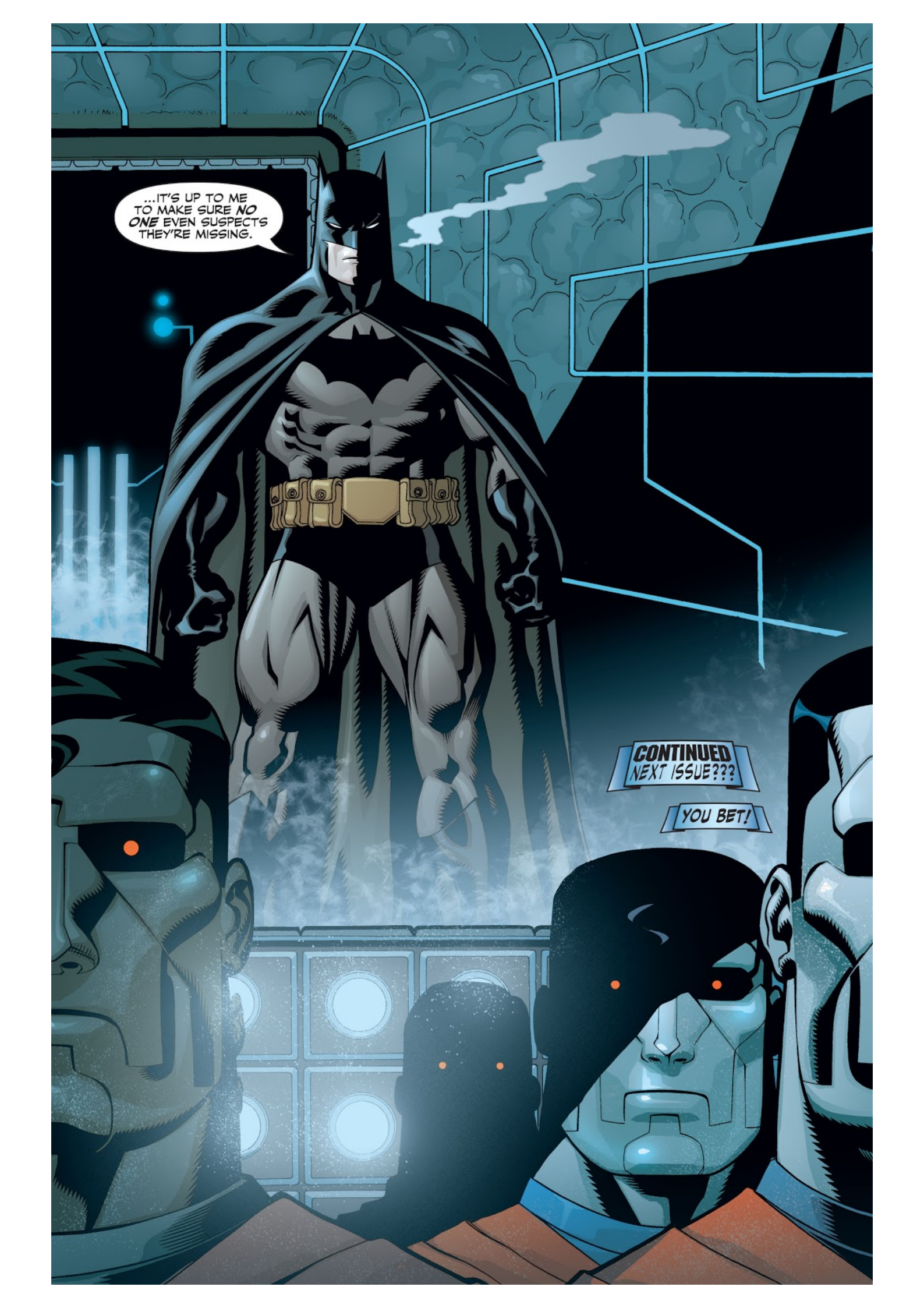
NO OFFENSE BUT...

WHAT...WHAT ARE WE DOING ON PLUTO?

IF YOU CAN REACH ME IN THE BATCAVE, YOU CAN REACH THE JLA IN THE INFANT UNIVERSE.

I WANT YOU TO TALK TO IT AND FIND THEM.

AND WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT...

A full-page comic book illustration. Batman stands in the center, looking down with a serious expression. He is wearing his iconic black suit with a yellow utility belt. The background features large, arched windows with a grid pattern, through which a cloudy sky is visible. In the foreground, the heads of several characters are visible, looking up at Batman. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

...IT'S UP TO ME
TO MAKE SURE **NO**
ONE EVEN SUSPECTS
THEY'RE MISSING.

CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE???

YOU BET!



JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA®

GRANT
MORRISON
ED
McGUINNESS
DEXTER
VINES

2
FEB 05
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

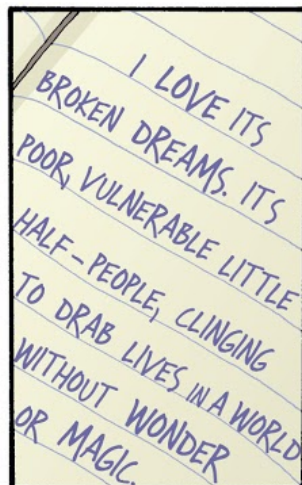
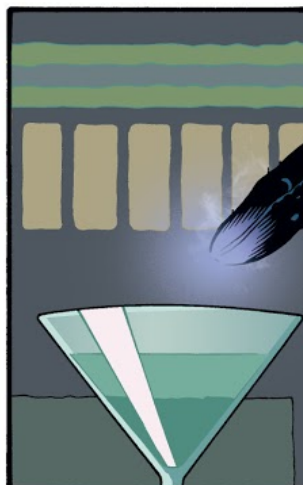
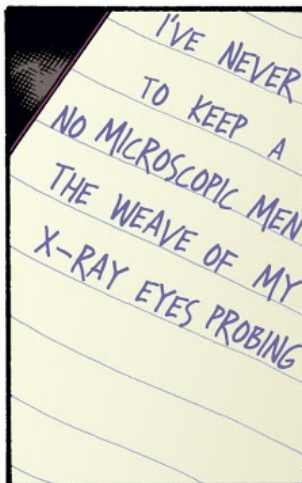
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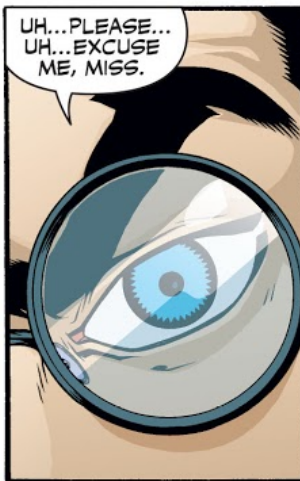
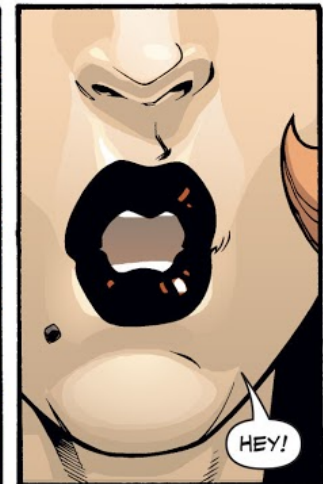


TOMORROW'S
LEAGUE
TODAY!

2005 edex

dc.com/jla







HE
POISONED
SOME
POOR
WOMAN'S
DRINK,
JUST FOR
FUN.



SO LET'S
TAKE HIM!

TEN MINUTES IN
THIS PLACE COULD BE
HOURS IN REAL TIME.



WE CAN'T
USE OUR USUAL
TECHNIQUES
HERE IN THE IN-
FANT UNIVERSE
OF QWEWQ,
WALLACE...YOU
KNOW THAT.



SHE'S
RIGHT.

IT'S IMPORTANT
THAT WE USE OUR
POWERS PRECISELY
AND DISCREETLY.



AS UNLIKELY AS IT SEEMS,
THIS UNHEALTHY ATTO-
SCOPIC COPY OF EARTH
DEVELOPED ENTIRELY
WITHOUT SUPERHEROES.

J'ONN ?



HERE.

HE
JUST RELEASED
A DEATH TOXIN
WHICH I'VE SAFELY
INHALED.



THE SUBWAY
STATION
IS ALMOST
EMPTY.

ALMOST...



HIS
THOUGHTS...



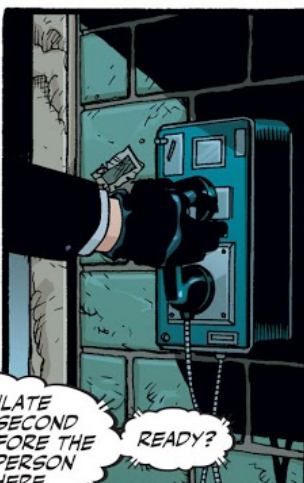
HIS
THOUGHTS
ARE LIKE MAD
DOGS RUNNING
THROUGH HIS
SKULL.



RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING

I CALCULATE
A THREE-SECOND
MARGIN BEFORE THE
NEAREST PERSON
GETS HERE.

READY?



WRONG
NUMBER.



HELLO ?



ANY
LUCK?

I NEARLY
HAD SOMETHING
THERE...

MASTER OF LIGHT

Grant Morrison » Writer
Ed McGuinness » Penciller
Dexter Vines » Inker

Dave McCaig » Colorist
Phil Balsman » Letterer

Michael Siglain » Assist. Editor
Mike Carlin » Editor

...THERE'S A TON OF MOVING PARTS WHICH CAN PUT YER RIGHT OFF...BUT "UNIVERSE" MEANS IT'S ALL *ONE THING* REALLY.

RADIO, MICRO-WAVES, HEAT, LIGHT... THAT'S HOW STARS COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

IT'S LIKE THE SONGS OF THE HUMPBACK WHALES...

THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE EDUCATED ON THE STREETS.

WERE THESE THE STREETS OF PRINCETON, BERYL?

THE HUTCHINSONS NEVER HAD NO *MONEY* BUT THEY ALWAYS HAD *BRAINS* AND A LOVE OF THE LIBRARY.

ANYHOW, I RECKON IF I HEAT FINGS UP A LITTLE BIT...

BE CAREFUL. THERE'S A *SUPER-VILLAIN* LOOSE IN THERE--*BLACK DEATH*.

THE LEAGUE FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE INFANT UNIVERSE. THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO... AFTER AN ENCOUNTER IN METROPOLIS.

YOU KNOW WHAT THESE LUNATICS ARE LIKE.

I'VE SEEN MORE SUPER-NUTTERS AS THE *SQUIRE* THAN ANY GIRL'S GOT A RIGHT--THE *METALEKS*, OLD KING COAL, BLEEDING *SPRINGHEELED JACK*... BRRR.

I RECKON I CAN HANDLE ONE WHAT'S ATTOSCOPICALLY *TINY*.

GOOD GIRL.

BUT YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE *ULTRAMARINE CORPS* ARE ABOUT TO BE HIJACKED INTO SERVICE AS TERROR WEAPONS BY *GORILLA GRODD*.

SO WHILE YOU CONTACT THE *JLA* AND TELL THEM BATMAN SAYS IT'S *URGENT*--

--I HAVE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEY NEVER WENT AWAY.



YOU'VE GOT
MY **NUMBER** IF
YOU NEED IT.

"KNIGHT
TO PAWNS 1
THROUGH 5."

FOLLOW
ME.

POWERS
ONLINE.



Look
after yourself,
Batman.



HEH

I'LL LEAVE
YOU THE
FLYING SAUCER,
BERYL.



**BOOM TUBE
ENGAGE.**

BOOM

I THOUGHT I
HEARD *THUNDER*...
COSMIC THUNDER.

HAVE
YOU EVER EATEN
SUPERHERO,
NEH-BUH-LOH ?

URRM...
TOUGH...

BUT *WE'LL*
WORTH THE
EFFORT.

I NEVER
EAT MY
PREY.

WE HAVE
THE LAST OF THE
ULTRAMARINES
BESIEGED IN THEIR
ARMORY.

WITH THEM IS
THE ONE I SEEDED
MY *PRESENT*
FORM IN.

SPINE RIDERS
OF THE *SHEEDA*
WILL TAKE CONTROL
OF THE REST.

NO NEED
FOR YOUR
"SAVAGE
TELEPATHY."

IT HAS
ITS USES; THIS
ATOMIC SUMO,
FOR INSTANCE.

GORAIKO'S
BRAIN IS
A SIMPLE
RECEIVER

WITHOUT ITS HUMAN
OPERATOR, NO MATCH
FOR MY "SAVAGE
TELEPATHY."

I HAVE ONLY
TO *MASTER* MY
ROARING THOUGHTS,
EXTEND--

--AND THE
MONSTER IS *MINE*
TO DIRECT.



BEATEN UP BY GODDIN' GORILLAS.

YOU'D BE ASHAMED OF YERSELF TOO.

ANYWAY, GRODD HAD HIS PAWS ON THIS BIG OL' STARRY-LOOKIN' THING...

YOU KNOW, YOU GUYS GOT LUCKY BIG TIME.

IF I HADN'T BEEN DOING INVENTORY ON THE WEAPONS STASH WHEN THE STATION WENT DOWN...



WE NEED EVERY SCRAP OF LUCK WE CAN MUSTER.

GRODD HAD *HELP*, THAT'S FOR SURE. NOT JUST THOSE GREASY JET APES OF HIS BUT SOMETHING *ELSE*.

THAT "STARRY THING" WAS ABLE TO TAKE DOWN GORAIKO, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

WELL, WE'RE THE DAMN ULTRA-MARINE CORPS, CYRIL.

LET'S DEAL WITH THIS RATIONALLY.

THEY SMASHED SCOTT'S WARMAKER ARMOR BUT HE'S BODILESS SO HE MAY HAVE GOTTEN OUT.

ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE DISCUSSION, JOHNNY-BOY?

YOU CAN TYPE INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY ONTO THE "KEYBOARD OF BEING," OR SO YOU KEEP TELLING US.

FANCY TYPING US A WAY OUT OF THIS ONE, MATE?

...I...
...I...

NO TIME TO GO ALL QUANTUM ZEN ON US.

WHO'S UP FOR BLOWING AWAY A FEW BAD MONKEYS? I KNOW I AM!

I'VE WAITED ALL ME STINKIN' LIFE TO HEAR THOSE WORDS.
God, I'm sore all over.

SHE'S WORTH *THREE* OF YOU IN A FIGHT, YOU LOOSE-LIMBED, FLIP-FLOPPING MICK.

SHE WON'T LET US DOWN.

AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK THIS IS ALL ABOUT...

THERE'S ALWAYS THE ONE BIT MY HEALING GIFTS DON'T REACH.

SO YER WEE LASS, BERYL, RAN FOR HELP, DID SHE?

'FAR D'YOU THINK SHE GOT?



...THERE ARE CURRENTLY **THIRTY** FREE-LANCE SUPERHUMANS ON THIS STATION. THAT'S **THIRTY** LIVING WEAPONS.

IT'S SO **OBVIOUS** IT'S A BLOODY MIRACLE NO ONE'S HAD THE NUTS TO TRY IT BEFORE.

MAYBE THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE JLA TO BE OUT OF THE WAY FOR A WEE WHILE, JUST LONG ENOUGH.

I MEAN, WHY WASTE **AIRCRAFT** OR **BOMBS** ON YOUR TARGETS WHEN YOU CAN BRAINWASH A REUSABLE ATOMIC MONSTER?

A HUMAN MISSILE? A FLIP-FLOPPING IRISH SUPER-COMMANDO?

WELL, IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME.

YOU AND I GOT OUT OF **QURAC** RIDDLED WITH RADIOACTIVE BUCKSHOT, JACK.

HERE.
NERVE RIFLE.

EARTH TO **MASTER**.

YOU NEED TO **USE** ANY OF THIS STUFF OR WHAT, JOHNNY?

SOME **RESPONSE** WOULD BE APPRECIATED...

THING IS, I **LIED** TO YOU ABOUT THE "RIDDLED" BIT, BIG MAN.

IT WAS ONLY THE **ONE** PELLET I WAS RIDDLED WITH AND IT HIT ME IN THE MEAT OF ME BUTT.

I WAS ONLY KEEPING YOU **COMPANY** IN YOUR AGONY.

PUT THE GUNS BACK.

I'VE BEEN **TRYING** TO RESIST, BUT...



...WHEN THEY DIG IN WITH THEIR **SPURS** YOU HAVE TO OBEY.



THAT'S BLOODY IT!

4-DEE!

FLATTEN DOWN AND COVER ME!

JACK!

TAK TAPPI TAK TAPPI TAK TAPPI TAK TAK TAK

NNNEEUUU!

WHAT'S HE DONE ?

WHAT'S HE DONE ?

RAPID TUMOR GROWTH.

SHE'LL DIE IN THIRTY SECONDS UNLESS YOU DO EXACTLY AS OUR NEW OWNERS TELL YOU.

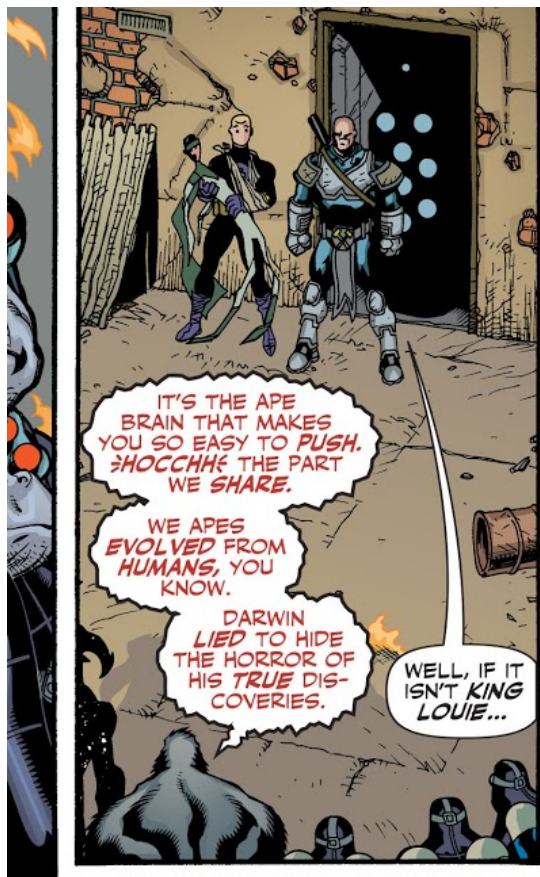
STOP!

KUH...ISSS MASS IN...IN...MY LUNGS...CAN'T BREATHE...

DON'T HURT HER.

WE'LL... WE'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT.

WE'LL OPEN THE DOOR.



IT'S THE APE
BRAIN THAT MAKES
YOU SO EASY TO *PUSH*.
HOCCHHE THE PART
WE SHARE.

WE APES
EVOLVED FROM
HUMANS, YOU
KNOW.

DARWIN
LIED TO HIDE
THE HORROR OF
HIS *TRUE* DIS-
COVERIES.

WELL, IF IT
ISN'T KING
LOUIE...



BEHOLD
YOUR
CAPTAIN.

WARMAKER!
BROKEN.



YOU'LL NOTICE
WE'VE REACTIVATED
SUPERBIA AS IT
ONCE WAS.

I'VE
RENAMED
IT *GORILLA-
TROPOLIS*.

WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE
PEOPLE?

ALL THE OTHER
PEOPLE WHO *LIVE*
HERE ON *SUPERBIA*
STATION ?

THERE...THERE
WERE *HUNDREDS*
OF MEN, WOMEN
AND CHILDREN! *REFUGEES*
WE'VE RESCUED FROM
OPPRESSION!



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM,
YOU VICIOUS
BASTARD?



I CAN ASSURE YOU...

THEY WON'T BE OPPRESSED *EVER* AGAIN.

YOU WON'T GET *ALL* OF US.

YOUR IMMENSE POWERS WILL BE DIRECTED AT THE GREAT CITIES AND MONUMENTS OF THE HUMAN WORLD.

BY MORNING, THEY WILL BE RUBBLE AND SEWER, FIT ONLY FOR HUMAN VERMIN TO *DIE* IN.

CYRIL!

WHAT'S THAT THING ON HIS NECK?

WHILE THE GRODD DYNASTY LEADS THIS PLANET INTO A NEW GOLDEN AGE!

I'M SORRY, CYRIL.

THEY GOT *ME* TOO.

THE PARASITES GOT *ALL* OF US.



NOW
YOU.

IT ONLY
HURTS AT
FIRST.

YOU ARE
WEAPONS NOW,
NOT PEOPLE.

YOUR STATION
WILL BE THE MOBILE
CAPITAL OF A *SIMIAN*
EMPIRE, DELIVERING MY
CREED TO ALL THE
NATIONS OF MAN.

PERHAPS I'LL
LET SOME OF YOU
LIVE AND BREED
IN ZOOS.

PERHAPS
NOT.

DON'T--

GLUUBB

...STATUES WILL
TOPPLE, PAINTINGS AND
BOOKS THAT SHOW THE
WORLD THROUGH HUMAN
EYES WILL *BURN!*

I WILL LIVE
TO SEE MAN'S
CIVILIZATION
WRECKED IN
THE DIRT!

AND
HISTORY
REWRITTEN
BY AN
APE.



PHILISTINE.

WITHOUT YOUR
JUSTICE LEAGUE,
BATMAN?

WHAT
WILL YOU
DO!?



GRODD.
THIS IS
YOUR FINAL
WARNING.

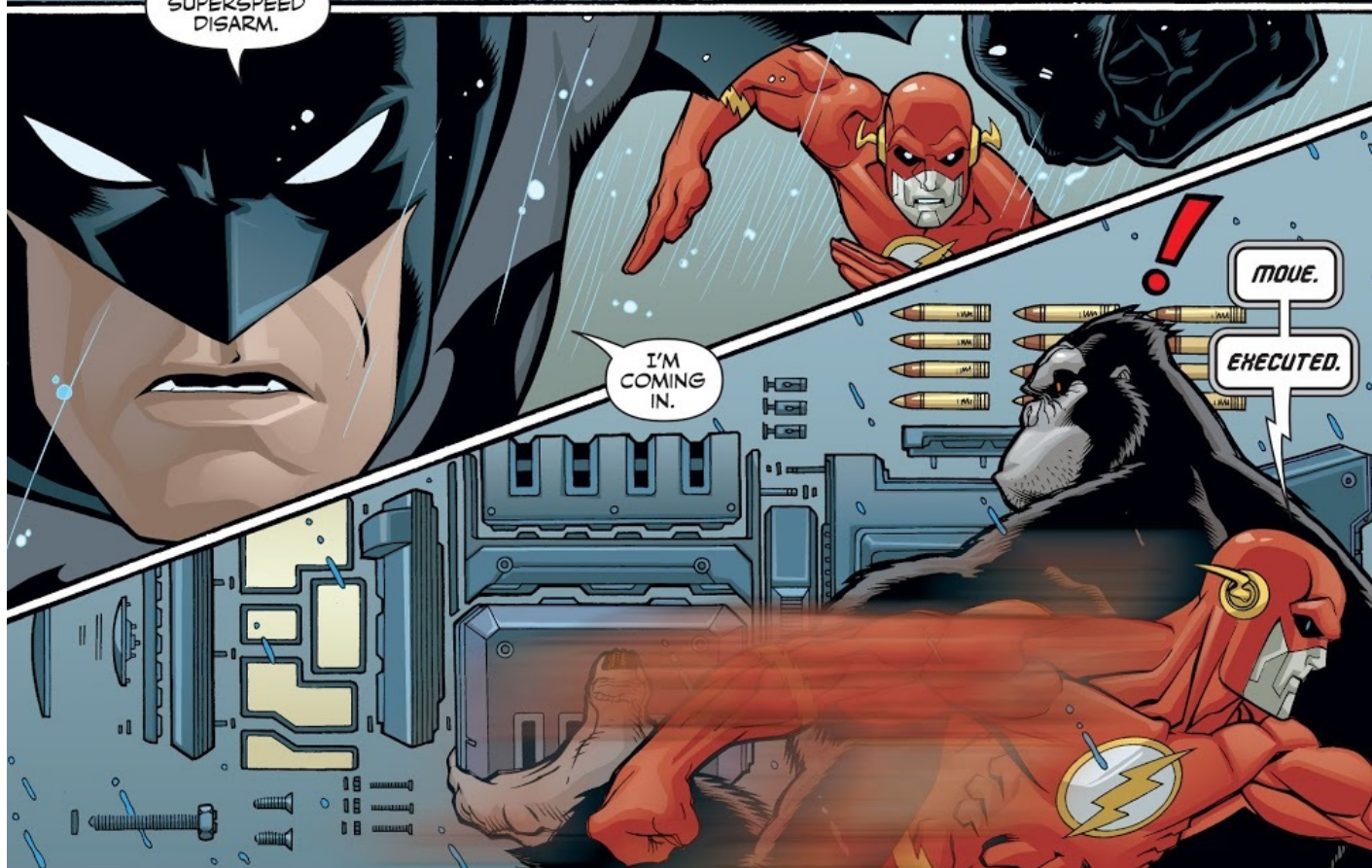
HAAURRCHH?!

DID BLACK
DEATH FAIL
US?



PAWN 1!
PAWN 2! TARGET
SELECT!

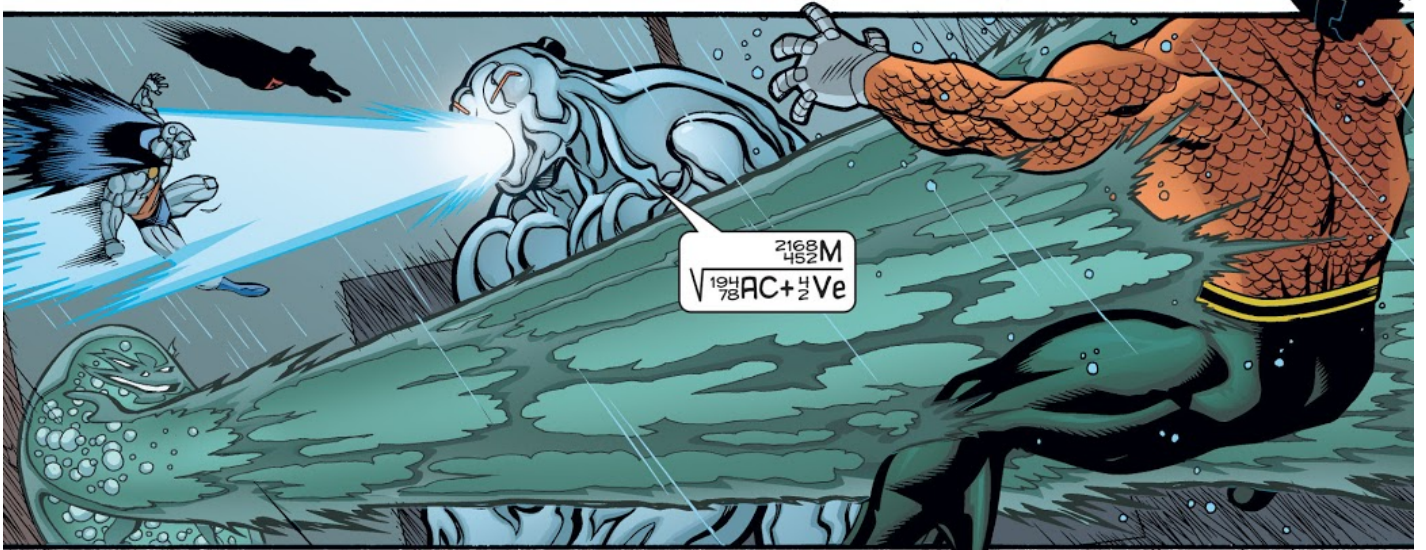
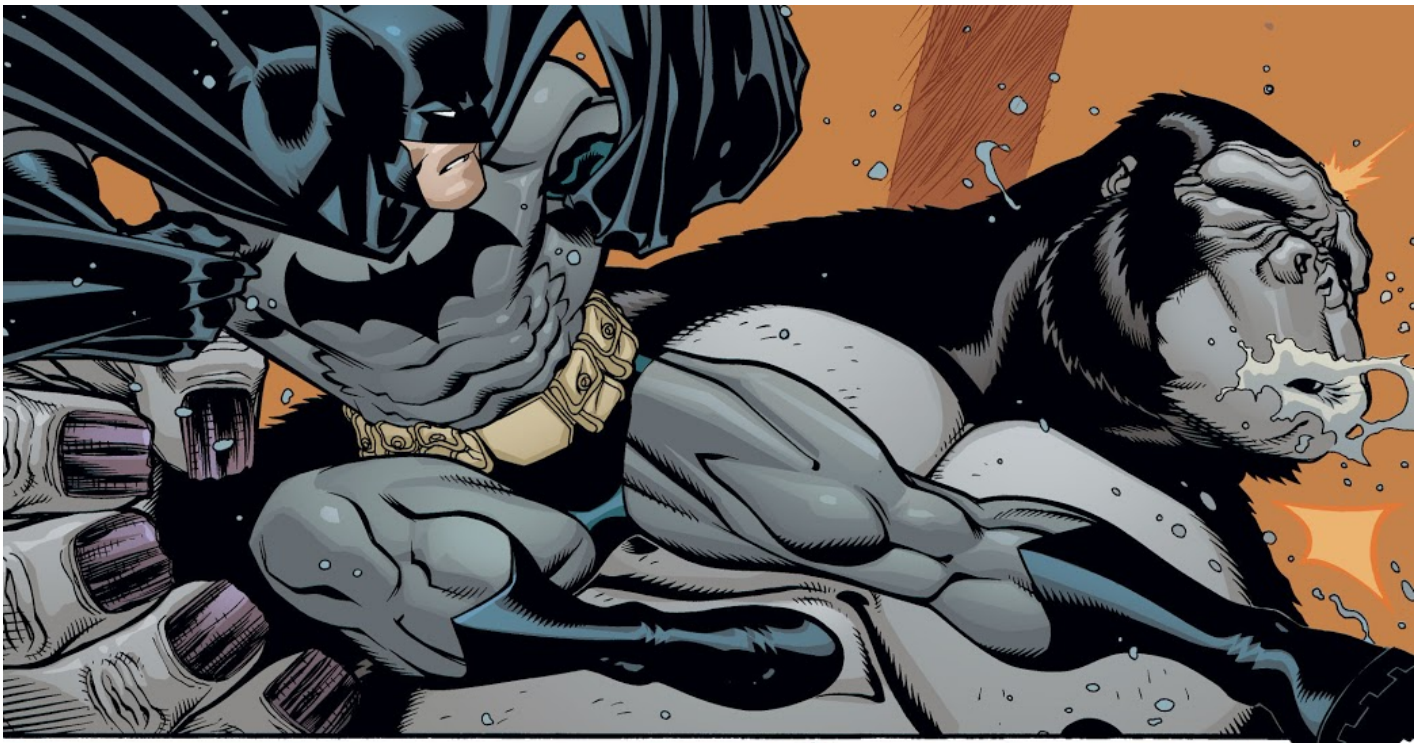
PAWN 4
SUPERSPEED
DISARM.

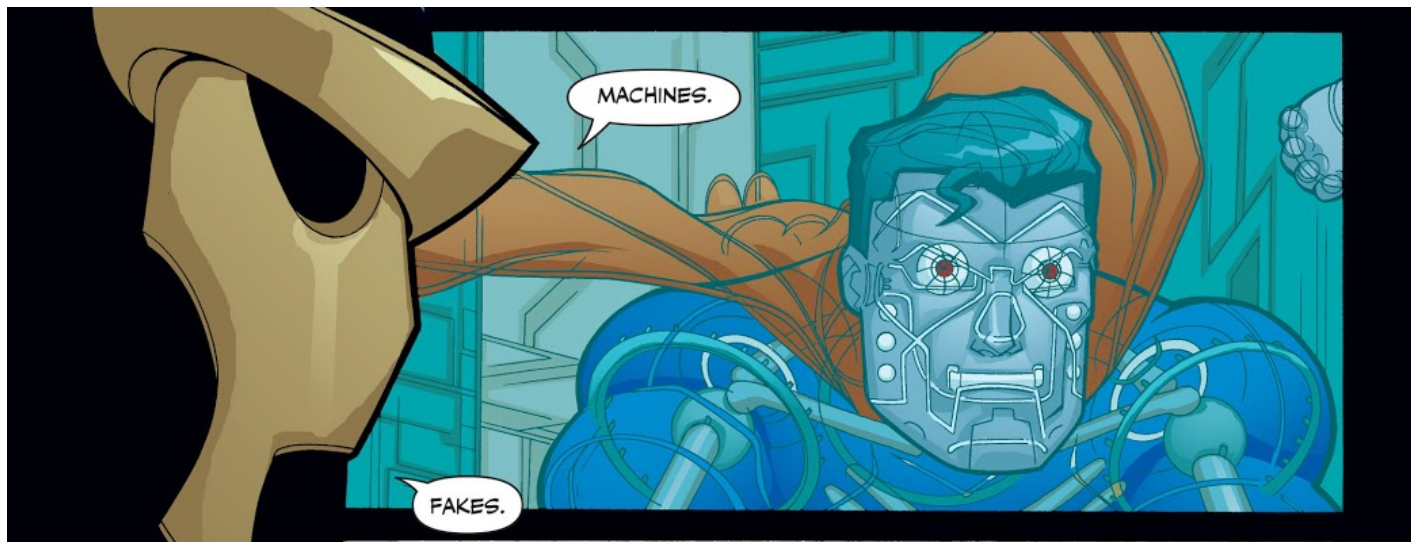


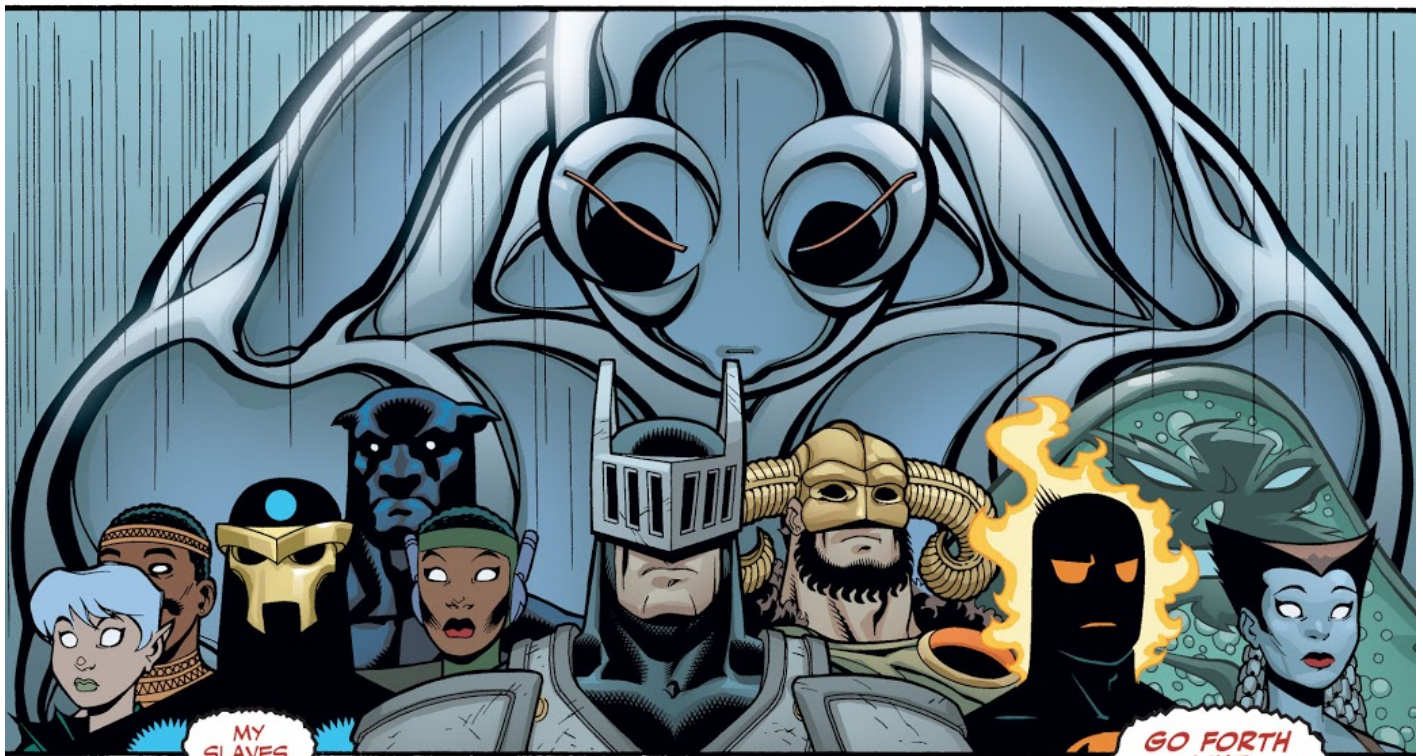
I'M
COMING
IN.

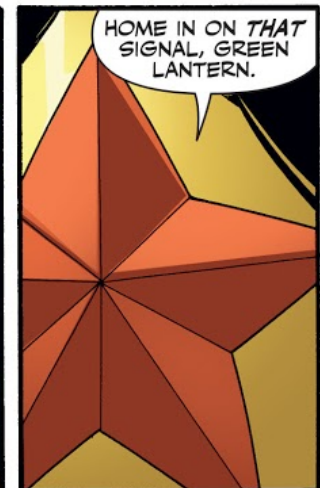
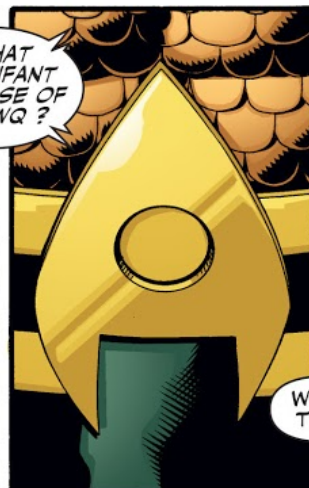
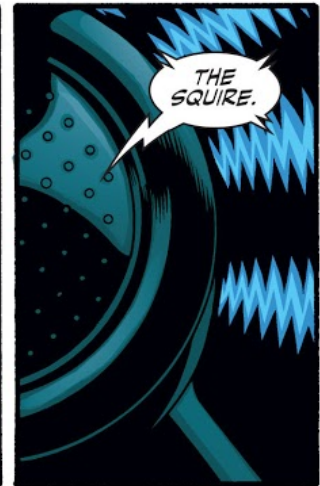
MOVE.

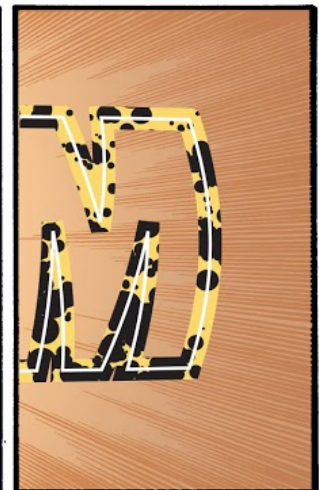
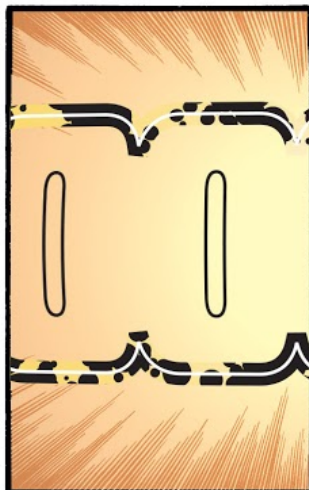
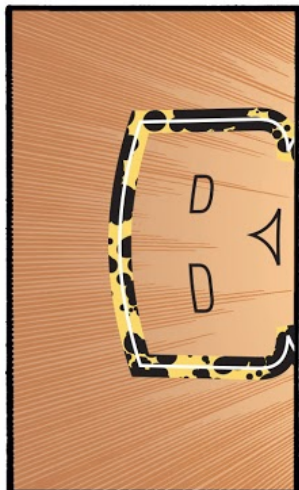
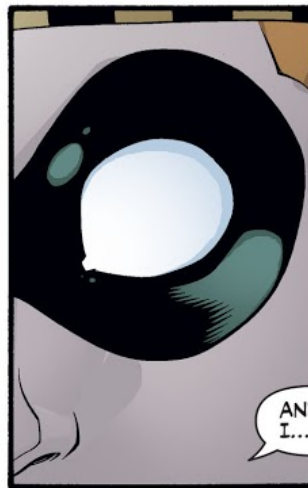
EXECUTED.

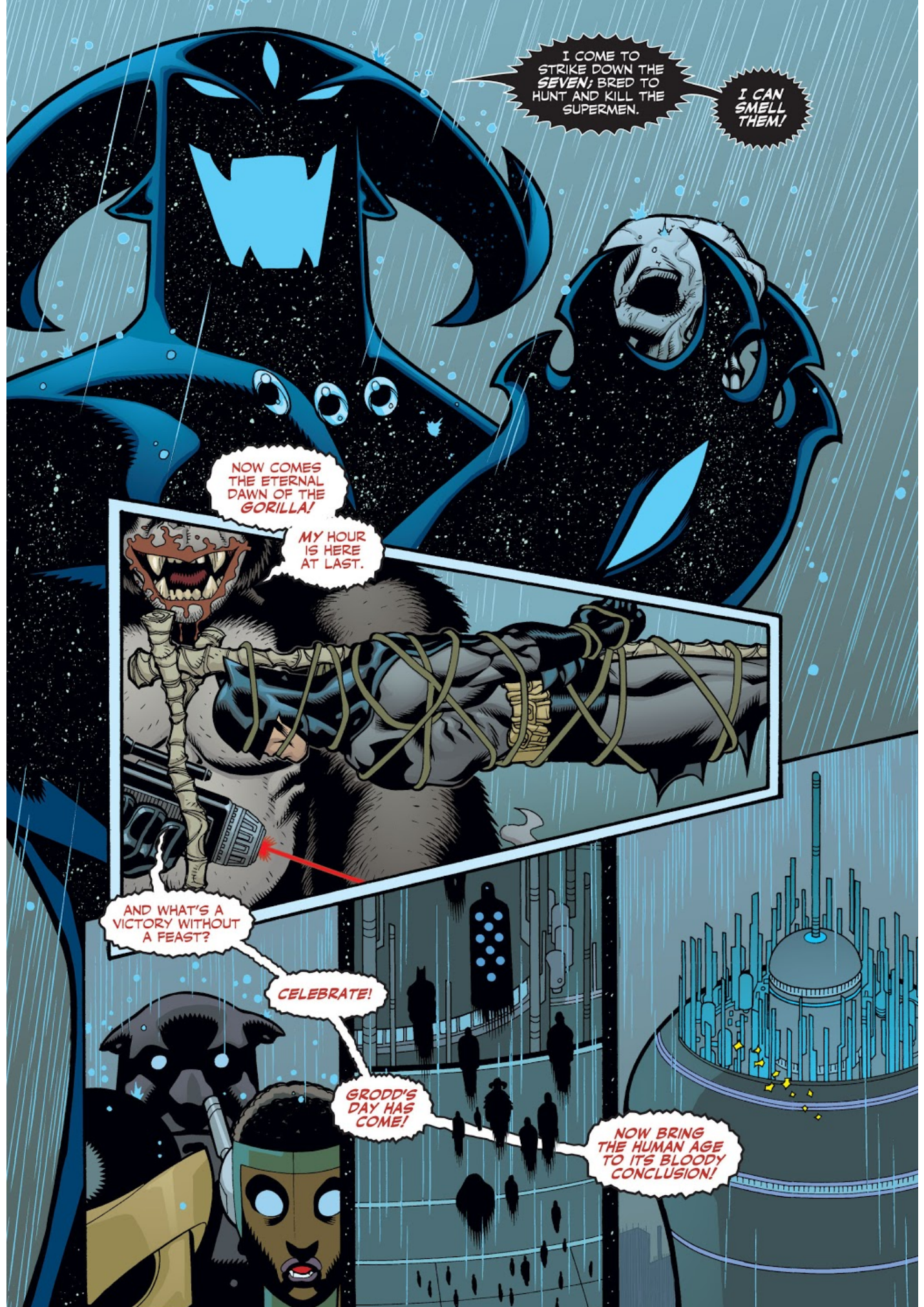












I COME TO
STRIKE DOWN THE
SEVEN; BRED TO
HUNT AND KILL THE
SUPERMEN.

I CAN
SMELL
THEM!

NOW COMES
THE ETERNAL
DAWN OF THE
GORILLA!

MY HOUR
IS HERE
AT LAST.

AND WHAT'S A
VICTORY WITHOUT
A FEAST?

CELEBRATE!

**GRODD'S
DAY HAS
COME!**

NOW BRING
THE HUMAN AGE
TO ITS BLOODY
CONCLUSION!



*SORRY, GRODD--IT'S
NOT OVER UNTIL THE
WORLD ENDS!!!*

DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE:

JLA vs. ULTRAMARINES



JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA®

GRANT MORRISON

ED MCGUINNESS

DEXTER VINES

3
MAR 05
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CLASSIFIED

INTO THE FIRE!



FIRST, SEEK
SHELTER.

NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS, STAY
INDOORS: ATTACKS OF THIS
NATURE, ALTHOUGH OFTEN
DEVASTATING, TEND
TO BE BRIEF.

Dawn arrives before dawn

IF, DURING THE EMERGENCY, YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH MEN AND WOMEN POSSESSING EXTRA-NORMAL ABILITIES OR POWERS,

DO NOT
ATTEMPT TO
COMMUNICATE
OR INTERACT WITH
THEM IN ANY
WAY.

AVOID DIRECT EYE CONTACT; THEY MAY EMIT X-RAYS AND OTHER DAMAGING FORMS OF RADIATION.

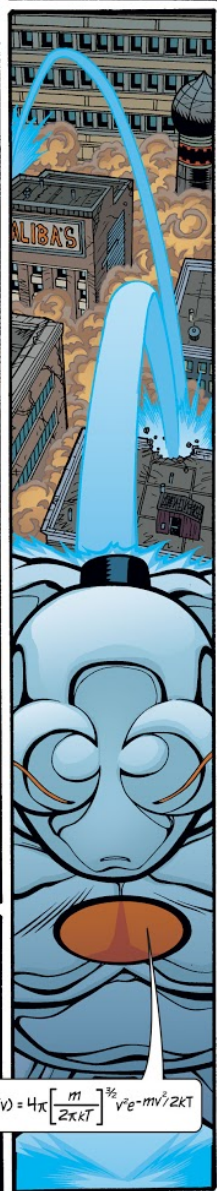
*SOME CAN
CHANGE SIZE RAPIDLY
OR REACH TEMPERATURES
EQUIVALENT TO THE
SURFACE OF THE SUN
IN SECONDS.*

MANY HAVE
NO REGARD FOR
HUMAN LIFE.

In the morning
of destruction

DO NOT.
REPEAT, DO
NOT--

[illegible]



$$F(V) = 4\pi \left[\frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right]^{3/2} v^2 e^{-mv^2/2kT}$$



HELP US!
SOMEBODY HELP US!



MY SPECIALIST SUBJECT...

GREEN LANTERN

JOHN STEWART-- MASTER OF AN ALIEN "WISHING RING," WHICH TURNS THOUGHTS INTO SOLID OBJECTS.



ARCHITECTURAL RENEWAL.

FLASH ?



PASSED ON MY SPEED TO ALL OF 'EM! SPINNING THEIR MOLECULES LIKE PLATES TO KEEP 'EM SAFE INSIDE THE BLAST!



YOU TELL ME.

I'M WAY TOO BUSY TRYING TO SCAFFOLD CAIRO BACK TOGETHER.



THE GREEN LANTERN'S RING OF POWER WAS ONCE INEFFECTIVE AGAINST YELLOW MATERIALS, CORRECT?

I COULD RESTORE THAT FLAW.

EDIT.

CUT.

AND PASTE.

GET OUTTA HERE.

EXCELLENT.

JOHN!

THE FLASH

WALLY WEST-- THINKING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.



YOU KEEP SPINNING, SIR...

AND JOHN, I HOPE THIS WORKS!

YOU AND ME BOTH, WALLY.

?

YELLOW, HUH?
RIDICULOUS.





A DYNASTY, A WORLD RUN BY **GORILLAS** LIKE ME, BATMAN. THAT'S THE PLAN.

A BILLION CLONES OF **GRODD**! HOW DOES THAT SOUND TO YOU?

A PLANET OF THE APES.
=HURRHH=



=SNUFF=

...I THOUGHT I **SMELLED** SOMETHING...

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, BATMAN?



LIKE ALL FALLEN GODS, YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL LIVE ON IN APE **LEGENDS** AS SAVAGE MONSTERS.

DEMONIC **OPPRESSORS**, OVERTHROWN BY THE DIVINE **GRODD** AT THE DAWN OF THE GLORIOUS **GORILLA AGE**!

YOUR WORKS WILL BE **FORGOTTEN**. YOUR NAMES WILL BE USED TO FRIGHTEN CHILDREN AT NIGHT.



=SNURRT=

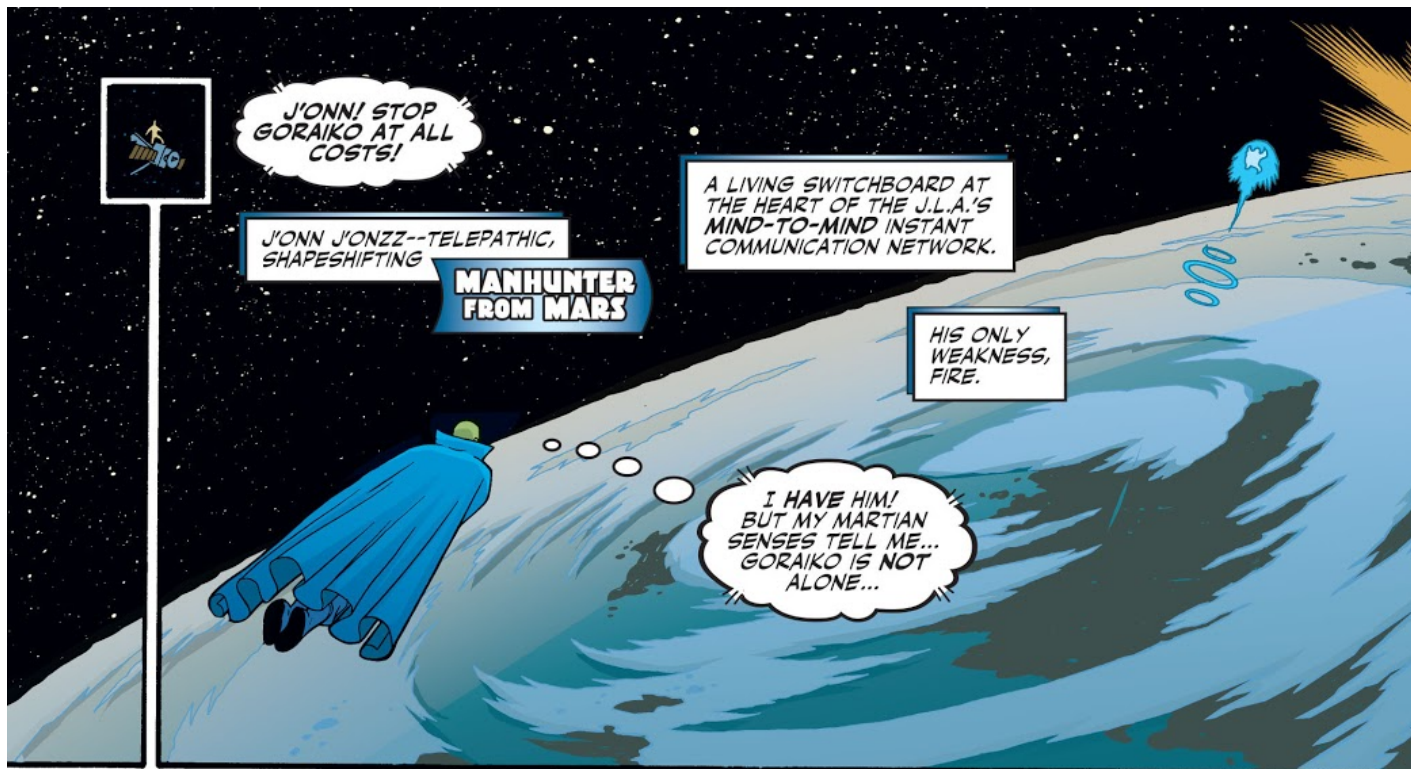
BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO **EAT** YOU, BIT BY BIT.

I WANT THEM TO FIND YOU LIMBLESS AND BROKEN, HANGING IN MY **LARDER** WITH THE REST OF THE MEAT.



RAAAAAUUU!





J'ONN! STOP GORAİKO AT ALL COSTS!

J'ONN J'ONZZ--TELEPATHIC, SHAPESHIFTING

MANHUNTER FROM MARS

A LIVING SWITCHBOARD AT THE HEART OF THE J.L.A.'S MIND-TO-MIND INSTANT COMMUNICATION NETWORK.

HIS ONLY WEAKNESS, FIRE.

I HAVE HIM! BUT MY MARTIAN SENSES TELL ME... GORAİKO IS NOT ALONE...



OLYMPIAN

ARISTIDES DEMETRIOS-- DISGRACED "SCHIZOPHRENIC SUPERMAN" OF GREECE.

RIDING SHOTGUN.

J'ONN!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

J'ONN?!



COME THEN!

WHICH OF THE LEGENDARY CHAMPIONS OF THIS AGE WILL BE FIRST TO FALL AT MY FEET?

SEND YOUR WORLD'S FINEST!



DIE, MARTIAN! DIE!

AUUUGGGHHH!



DIE ALONE.



AND FAR FROM HOME.



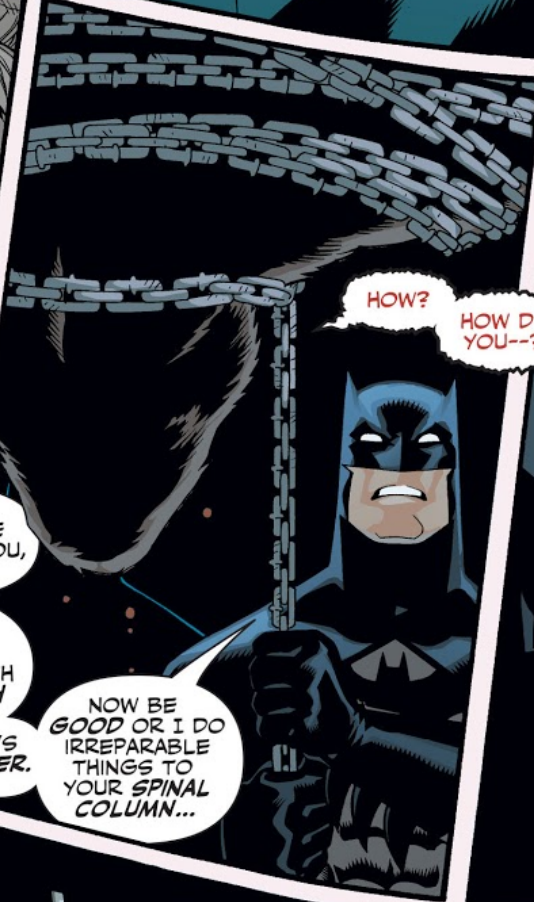
GURRRNN!

YOUR ACCOMPLICE BETRAYED YOU, GRODD.

AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS HERE, THE REAL JUSTICE LEAGUE, WHICH MEANS BLACK DEATH FAILED YOU TOO.

IT'S OVER.

NOW BE GOOD OR I DO IRREPARABLE THINGS TO YOUR SPINAL COLUMN...



HOW?

HOW DID YOU--?

I HAD HELP.

WHEN YOU TRASHED WARMAKER'S JET-SUIT YOU OVERLOOKED SCOTT SAWYER, ITS DISEMBODIED PILOT.



BATMAN BEWARE!



RELEASE OUR MASTER GRODD.

AND JOIN US, BATMAN.



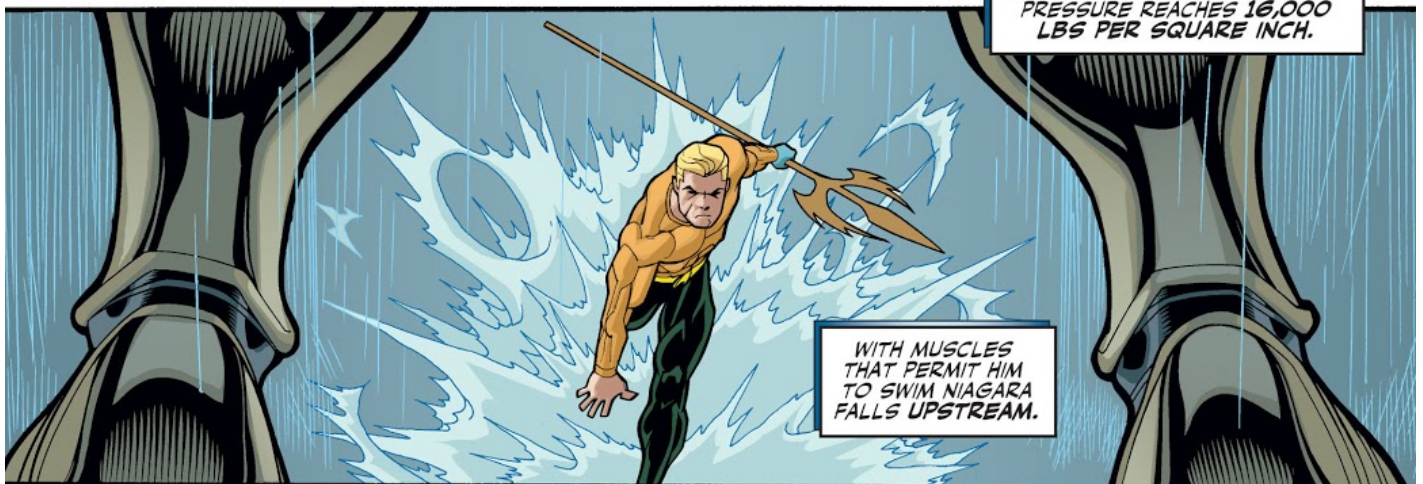
OR DIE.



AQUAMAN

LORD OF THE
OCEANS.

WITH LUNGS THAT CAN
FUNCTION AT 11,000 METERS
BELOW SEA LEVEL, WHERE THE
PRESSURE REACHES 16,000
LBS PER SQUARE INCH.



WITH MUSCLES
THAT PERMIT HIM
TO SWIM NIAGARA
FALLS UPSTREAM.



I LEFT
THE MARTIAN
BURNING.

YOU, I WILL
DROWN.

YOU HURT
J'ONN ?



THAT WAS
STUPID.



GRRRAWWW!

PLANE.
TO ME!

SHHT!!

TASMANIAN
DEVIL!

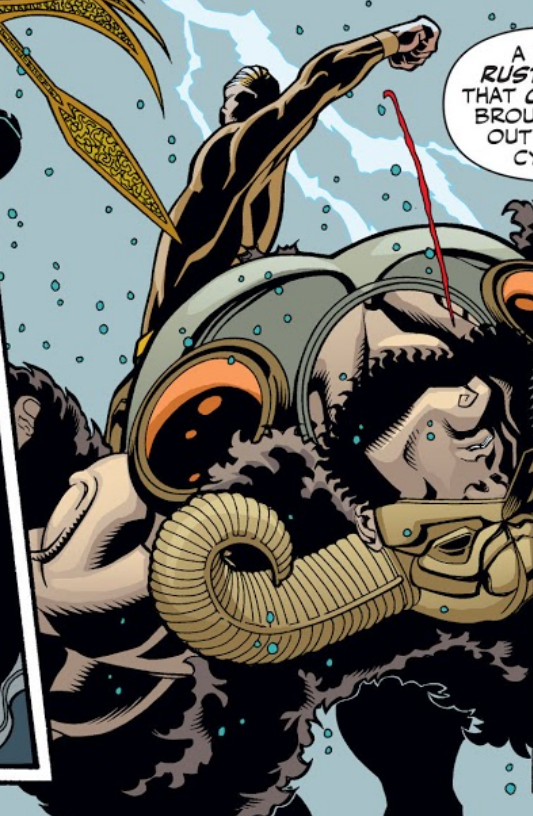
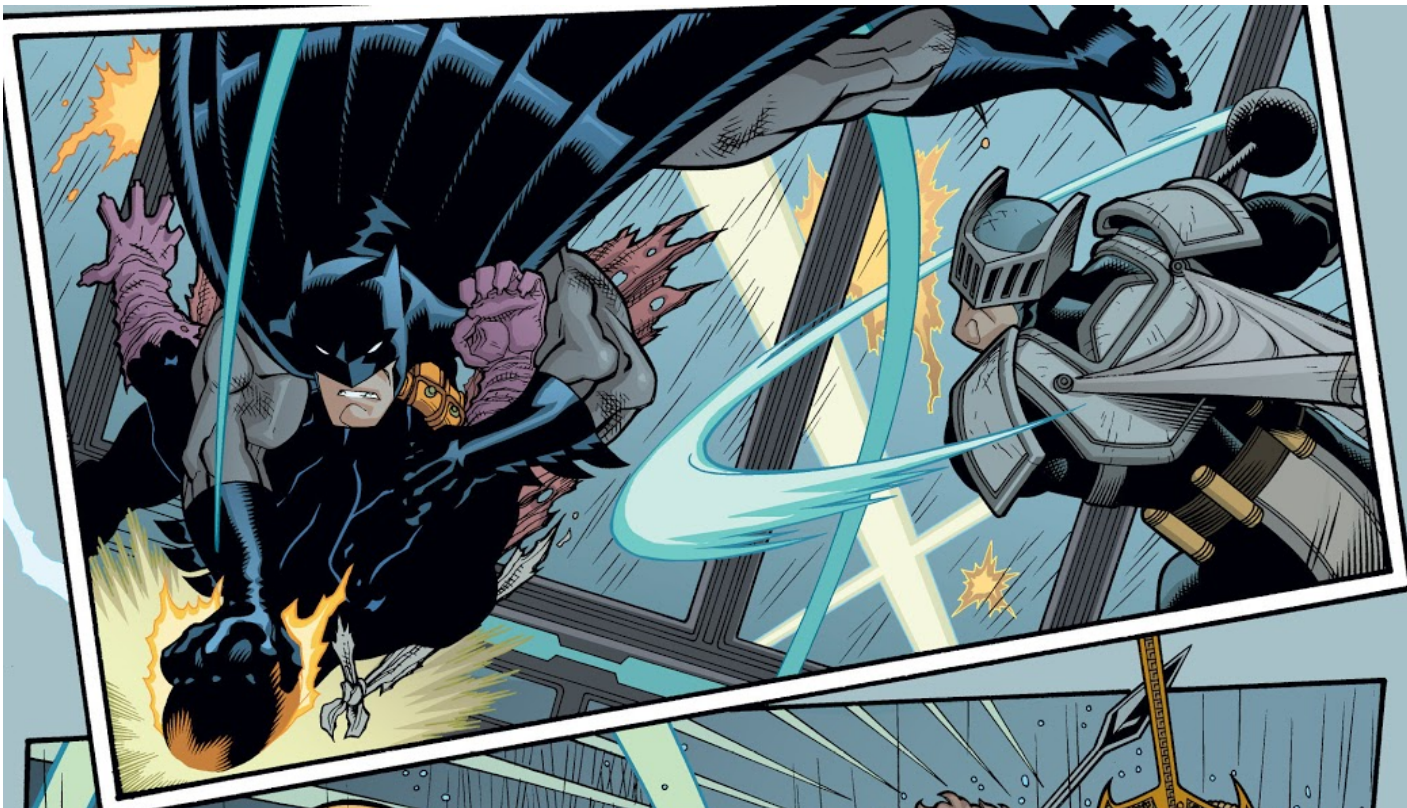
SHOW YOUR
TRUE NATURE!
STOP YOUR TEAM-
MATES.

RAAAUUURRR!

GOOD
BOY.

DIANA OF
THEMYSCIRA

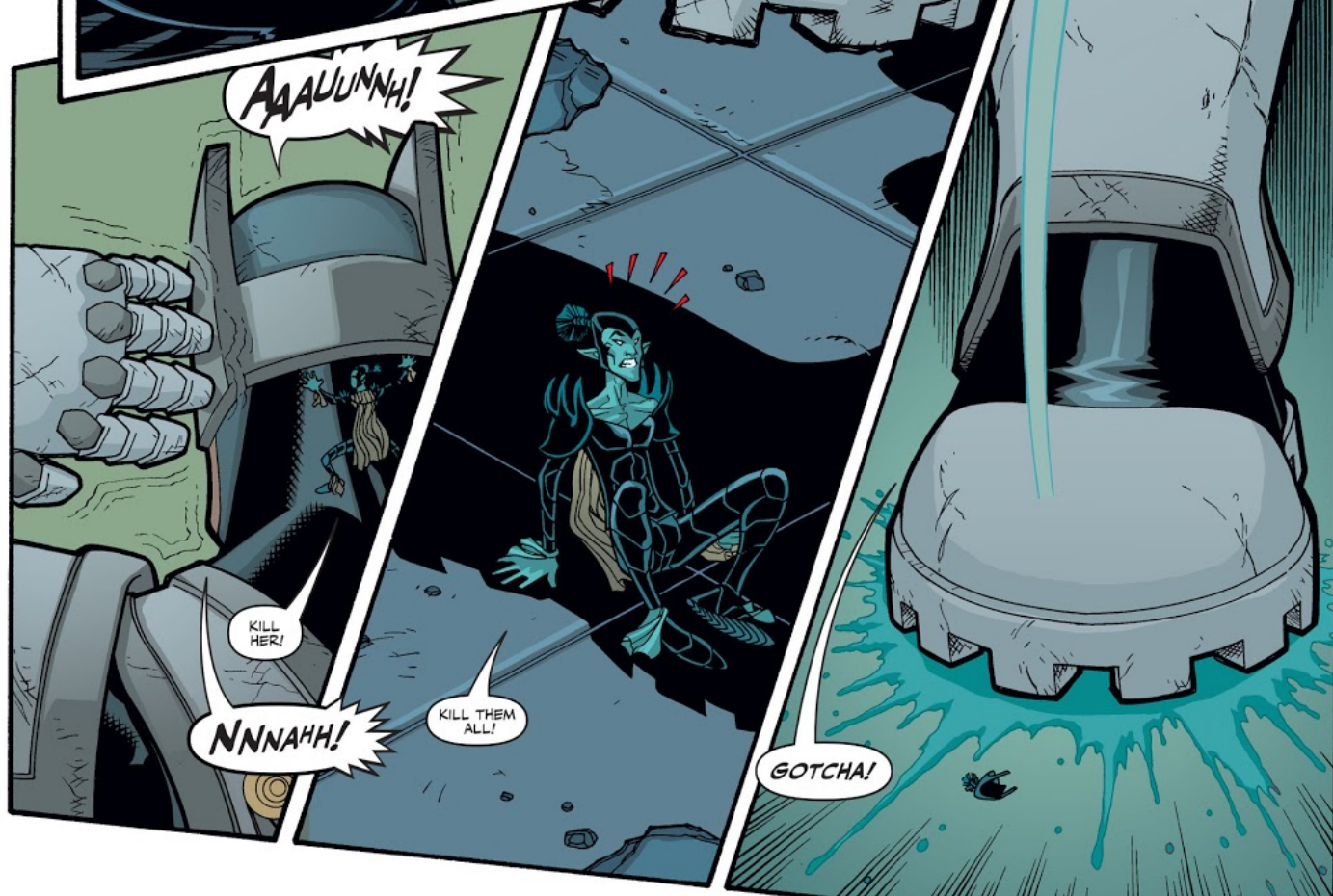
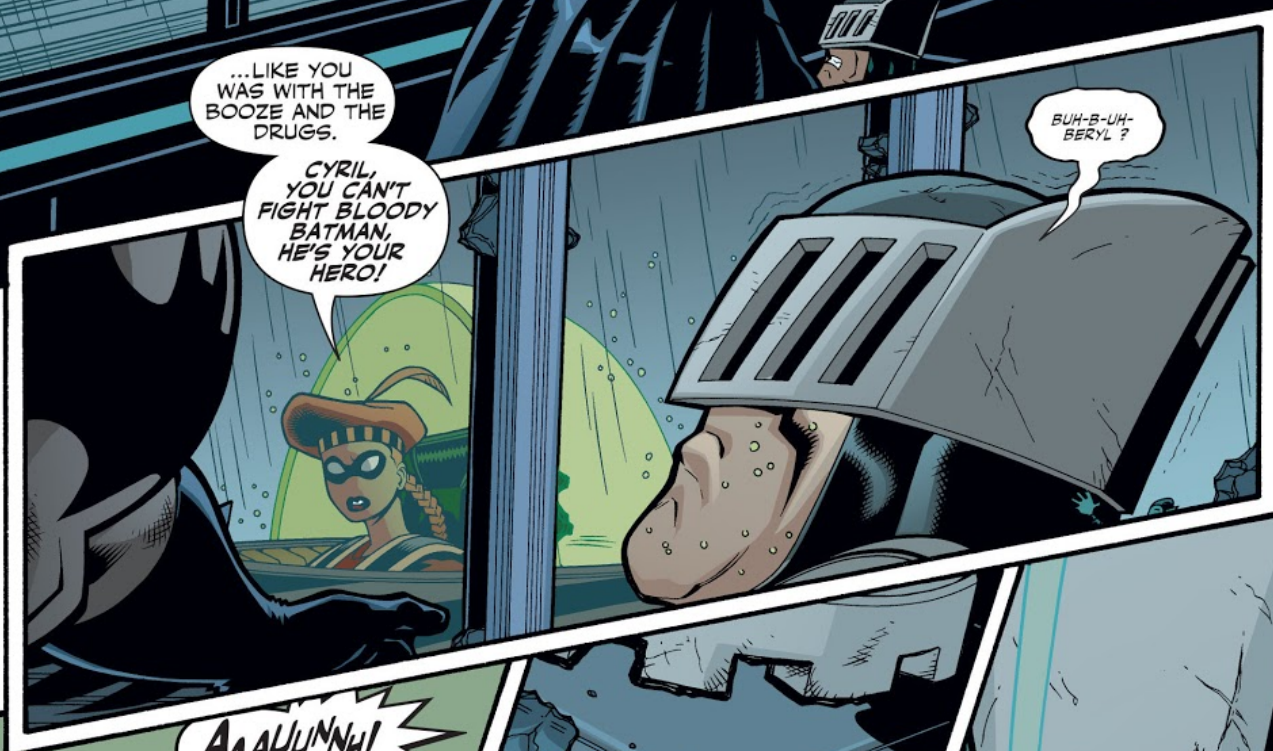
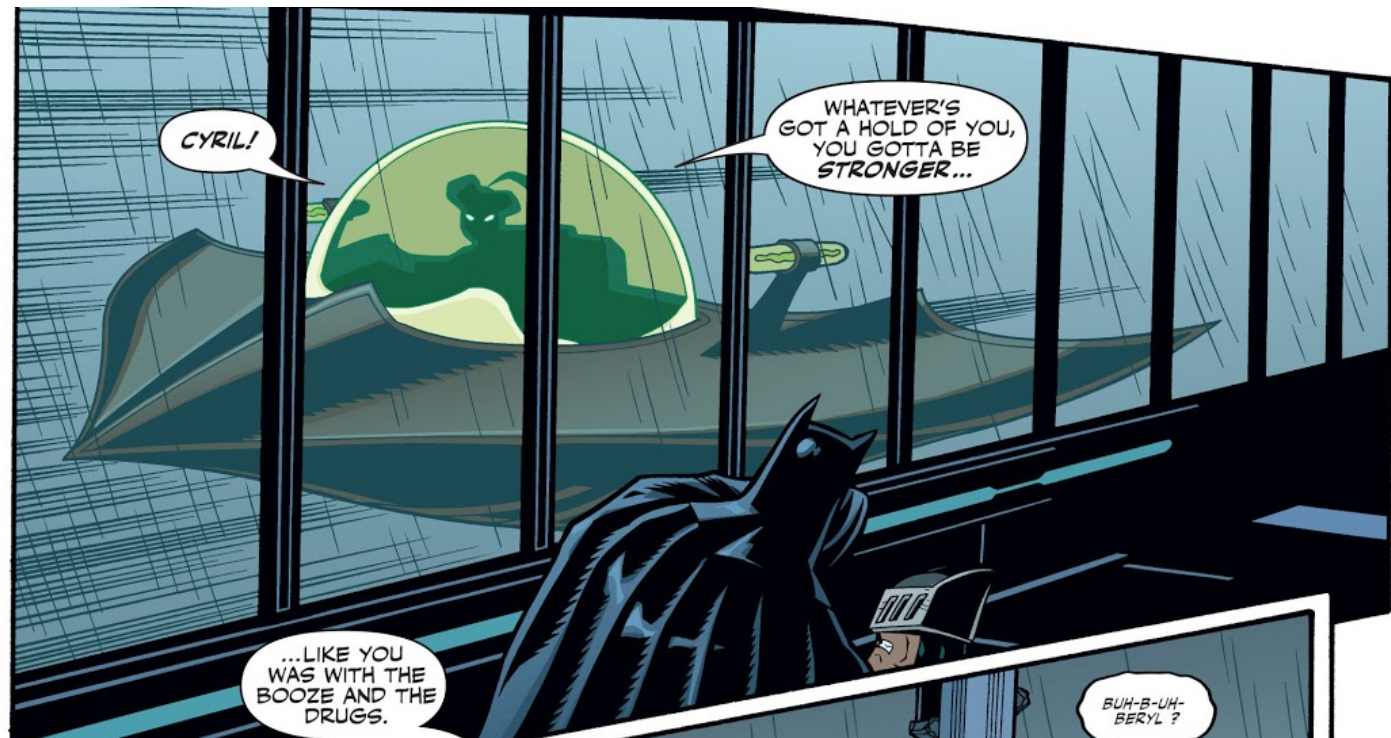
WONDER
WOMAN

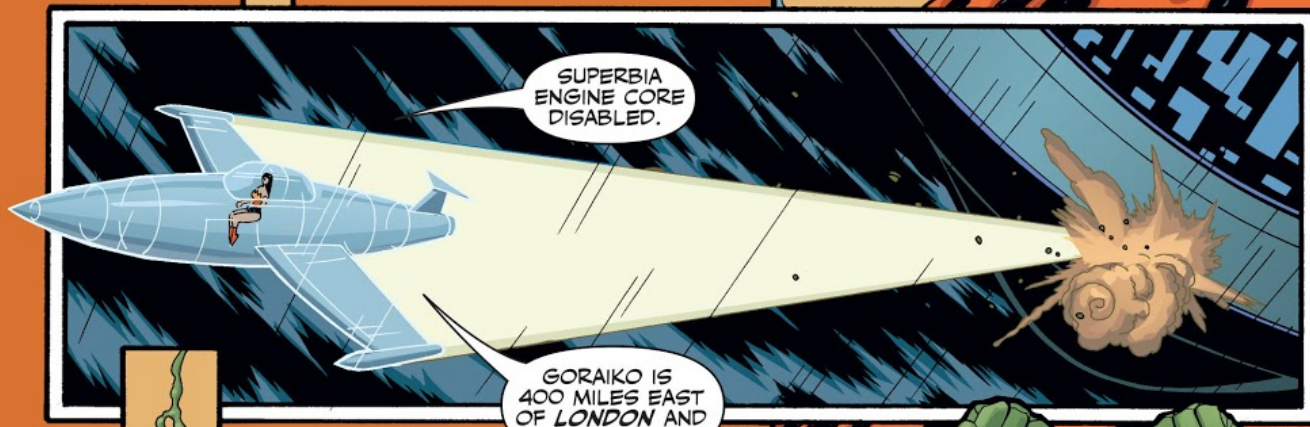


A LITTLE
RUSTY SINCE
THAT COMA THEY
BROUGHT YOU
OUT OF, HUH,
CYRIL?



GGGAAHHH!!





SUPERBIA
ENGINE CORE
DISABLED.

GORAIKO IS
400 MILES EAST
OF LONDON AND
CLOSING.

J'ONN
J'ONZZ! WHERE
ARE YOU?

MILLIONS
OF LIVES MAY
DEPEND ON
YOU.

...FLAME...
CANNOT TAKE
FORM...

->UCCHSS!-<

YOU **MUST**
STOP GORAIKO
AT ALL COSTS!

UNNH!

...MUST...
I **MUST**...
FORM...

WE NEED
YOU!

NGGH...
MUST--!

NINGGHAUU!



J'ONN
J'ONZZ
RESPONDING.

I'M
ON MY
WAY.

HURRY,
J'ONN!

HURRY!





**NEBULA
MAN!**

WHAT
ARE
YOU?

ENOUGH.

BUT NOT
AS SORRY AS
YOU'RE GOING
TO BE.

THE SEED
OF EVIL BLACK
DEATH PLANTED
BORE FRUIT
IN ME!

I AM
NEH-BUH-LOH,
THE ADULT
UNIVERSE OF
QWEWQ!

SO YOU
GREW UP A TIME-
TRAVELING
BULLY AND CAME
BACK?

I'M
SORRY.

...I HAVE...
HAVE SEEN
ENOUGH...I HAVE
TESTED MY
PREY...

WHEN
NEXT MY PEOPLE
COME, IT WILL BE AS
WHISPERS OF DEATH,
UNSEEN...

GOODBYE,
SUPERMAN...



MOONS OF MARS, IT HAS NO MIND!

NOTHING I CAN REACH!!!

In the blink of an eye

$$F = \frac{(9 \times 10^9) N \cdot m^2 / C^2 (1C)(1C)}{1m^2} = 9 \times 10^9 N$$

Something yields itself to--

AH--

THANK YOU, AQUAMAN.

JUST IN TIME.

BANK

CARLINE



雨ですか？

私はゴライコーを見た。

いいえ、私だけです。

ア-サー-すべての海の王。



GONE...



SUPERBIA'S
DOWN!

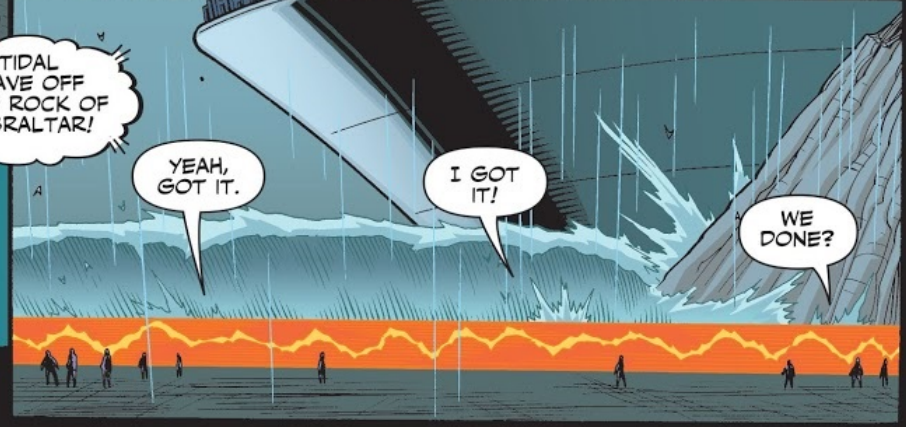


TIDAL
WAVE OFF
THE ROCK OF
GIBRALTAR!

YEAH,
GOT IT.

I GOT
IT!

WE
DONE?



YOU
APES WERE LED
ASTRAY BY A CUNNING
MANIPULATOR.

A BUNCH OF
DUMB *SLOGANS*, A
FEW *BANANAS* AND YOU
BELONG TO *ANYBODY*,
IT SEEMS.

YOU OUGHT
TO BE *ASHAMED* OF
YOURSELVES.

YOU'LL
BE RETURNED TO
YOUR *OWN* PEOPLE
FOR PUNISHMENT, IN
GORILLA CITY.



GRODD.

IN LIGHT OF YOUR CRIMES,
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
HAS ASKED US TO CONSIDER A TOTAL
DISEMBODIMENT AND
INCARCERATION PROCEDURE...

"PHANTOM ZONE"
IMPRISONMENT.



MINDD ALL
JELLYYY.

AND
AS FOR
YOU--!



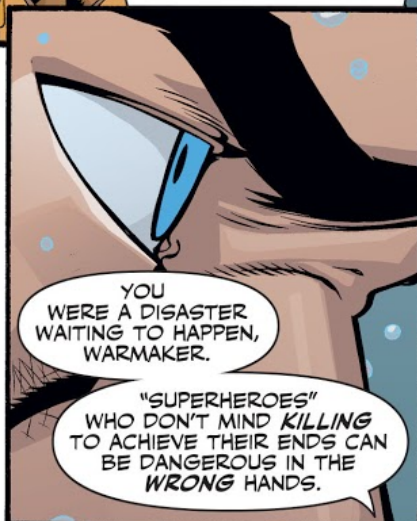


ADMIT IT,
SCOTT.

THIS IS A
PUBLIC RELATIONS
APOCALYPSE FOR
THE ULTRAMARINE
CORPS.

MY TEAM
WAS OPERATING
UNDER THE CONTROL
OF MYSTERY COSMIC
NEURO-PARASITES.

TALK LIKE
THAT'S *SURE*
TO IMPRESS THE
JUDGE, BIG
FELLA.



YOU
WERE A DISASTER
WAITING TO HAPPEN,
WARMAKER.

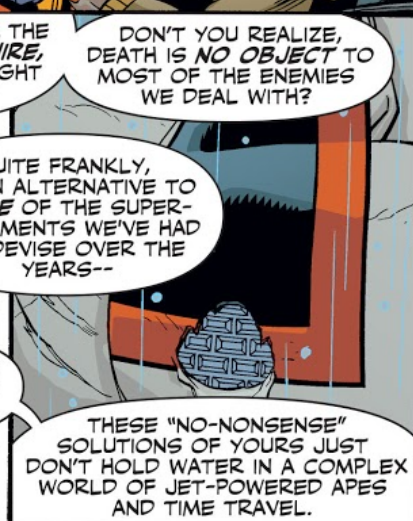
"SUPERHEROES"
WHO DON'T MIND *KILLING*
TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS CAN
BE DANGEROUS IN THE
WRONG HANDS.



IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE
BRAVERY OF THE *SQUIRE*,
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT
HAVE HAPPENED?

QUITE FRANKLY,
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO
SOME OF THE SUPER-
PUNISHMENTS WE'VE HAD
TO DEVISE OVER THE
YEARS--

--EXECUTION'S
A WALK IN THE
PARK.



DON'T YOU REALIZE,
DEATH IS *NO OBJECT* TO
MOST OF THE ENEMIES
WE DEAL WITH?

THESE "NO-NONSENSE"
SOLUTIONS OF YOURS JUST
DON'T HOLD WATER IN A COMPLEX
WORLD OF JET-POWERED APES
AND TIME TRAVEL.



BUT THERE'S A
GROWING UNIVERSE
THAT NEEDS A
STRONG, GUIDING
HAND TO KEEP IT
ON THE STRAIGHT
AND NARROW.

YOU HAVE
BIG IDEAS?

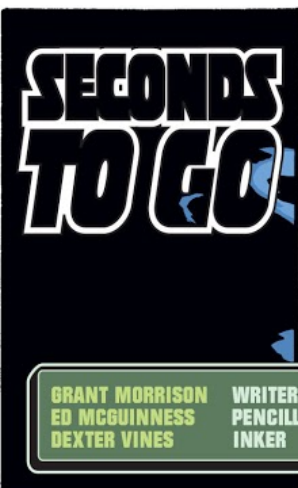
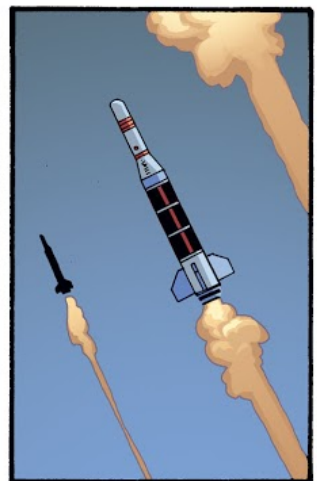


⤵gulp⤵

START
SMALL.



BOOM





Nov 29, 2006

W E E K T H I R T Y

PLUS:
THE ORIGIN OF
THE METAL MEN™
WITH DUNCAN ROULEAU



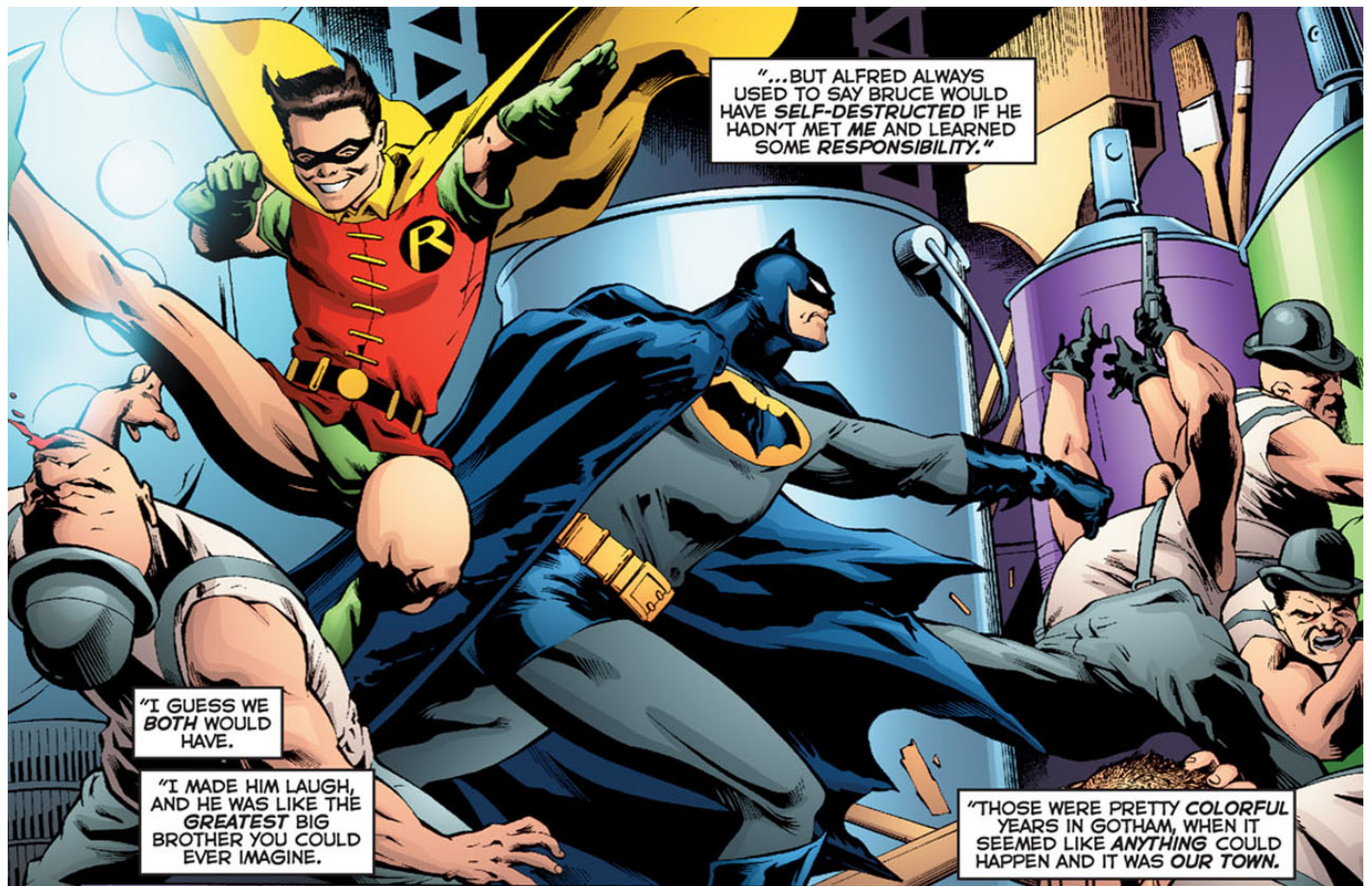
you! Rain urns ...Death of the Batman!...Gotham Beast Wars continue!...I've got my eyes on you!...Death

dccomics.com

A dynamic comic book illustration of Batman in his classic suit, complete with a yellow utility belt and a blue cape, leaping through the air. He is surrounded by several adversaries dressed in dark, hooded robes, some of whom are holding daggers. The scene is set in a grand, gothic-style cathedral with high vaulted ceilings and large windows. Bright, golden light beams stream down from the windows, illuminating the characters. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greys, and warm oranges/yellows from the light. Batman's expression is one of intense focus and combat readiness.

"EVERYTHING
STARTED OUT
SO WELL..."

DC COMICS 52

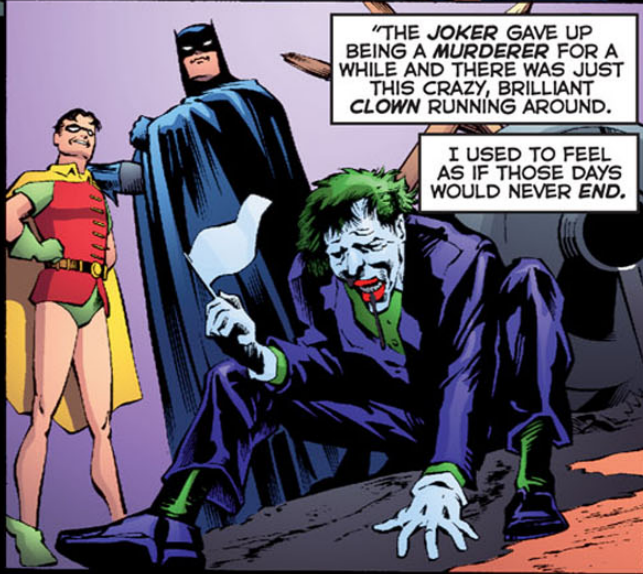


"...BUT ALFRED ALWAYS USED TO SAY BRUCE WOULD HAVE SELF-DESTRUCTED IF HE HADN'T MET ME AND LEARNED SOME RESPONSIBILITY."

"I GUESS WE BOTH WOULD HAVE."

"I MADE HIM LAUGH, AND HE WAS LIKE THE GREATEST BIG BROTHER YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE."

"THOSE WERE PRETTY COLORFUL YEARS IN GOTHAM, WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN AND IT WAS OUR TOWN."



"THE JOKER GAVE UP BEING A MURDERER FOR A WHILE AND THERE WAS JUST THIS CRAZY, BRILLIANT CLOWN RUNNING AROUND."

"I USED TO FEEL AS IF THOSE DAYS WOULD NEVER END."



"THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, EVERYTHING HE'D BUILT STARTED TO CRUMBLE."

"NOBODY NOTICED AT FIRST--HE'S THE BATMAN, THE SCARIEST GUY ON THE PLANET."

"NONE OF US EVER WANTS TO THINK OF HIM HAVING MOMENTS OF DOUBT OR FEAR."

"WE DON'T LET HIM."



"BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THESE LAST FEW YEARS SINCE JASON BECAME THE SECOND ROBIN--"



"WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED--"

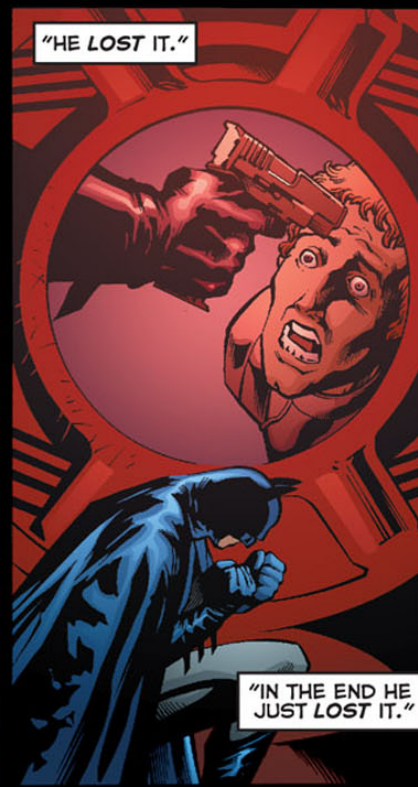
"IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ANY MAN."

"EVEN THE STRONGEST."

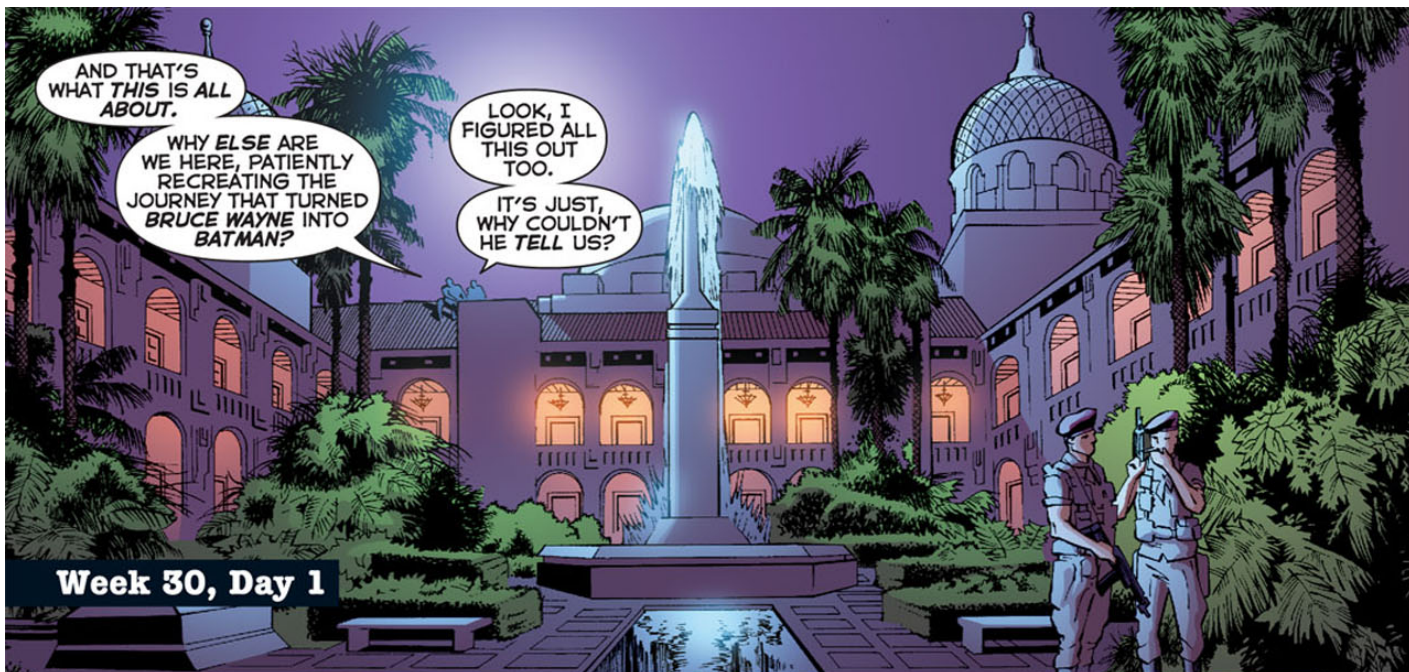
WRITTEN BY GEOFF JOHNS, GRANT MORRISON, GREG RUCKA, MARK WAID



**ART BREAKDOWNS BY KEITH GIFFEN • PENCILS BY JOE BENNETT
INKS BY JOE BENNETT & RUY JOSE • COLORS BY DAVID BARON • LETTERS BY PHIL BALSAMAN**



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ASSOCIATE EDITOR - JEANINE SCHAEFER • EDITORS - STEPHEN WACKER & MICHAEL SIGLAIN**



Week 30, Day 1





DARK KNIGHT DOWN



THIS IS WAY TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

THESE GUYS MUST HAVE FLOWN IN FROM GOTHAM RIGHT AFTER HE STRUCK FOR THE DESERT.

...HE WENT TOWARDS THE EMPTY QUARTER, BLACK LIKE A SHADOW...

HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S IN THESE CRATES?

THIS STUFF COULD START WORLD WARS 3, 4 AND 5.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?

WHO SET YOU UP FLYING AIR APOCALYPSE OUT OF GOTHAM CITY?

TALK!

KRUNCH

CAIN OF THE ROCK AND THE RAGE, MAKER OF MARTYRS, GRANT ME SWIFT... SWIFT... RELEASE...

HEY!

HE JUST BIT DOWN ON A POISON CAPSULE.

WE COME LOOKING FOR BATMAN, WE FIND THIS.

WE WALK AWAY FOR HALF A YEAR AND INTERGANG'S RUNNING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM!

THE BIGGEST ORGANIZED CRIME NETWORK ON THE PLANET!



BRUCE WAYNNNE

Week 30, Day 3









Mar 28, 2007

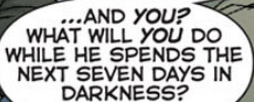
WEEK FORTY-SEVEN



PLUS:
THE ORIGIN OF THE
TEEN TITANS.
WITH KARL KERSCHL

Kanen Oolong Isl ...Regrouping in Nanda Parbat...Animal Man takes flight...Bible Studies with Kane...Regro

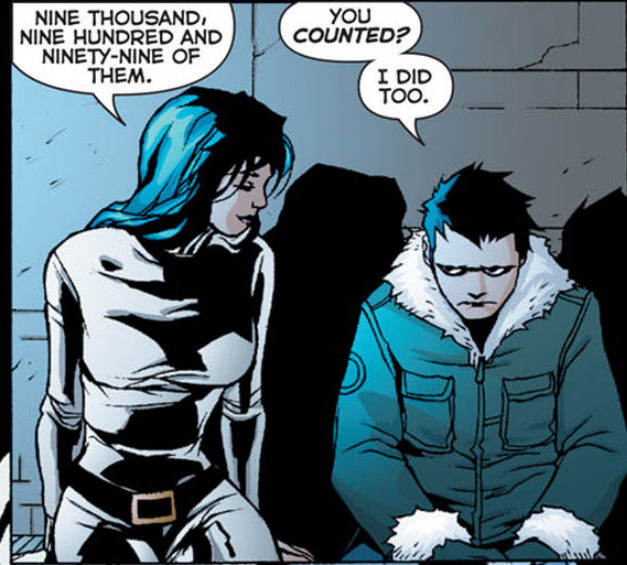
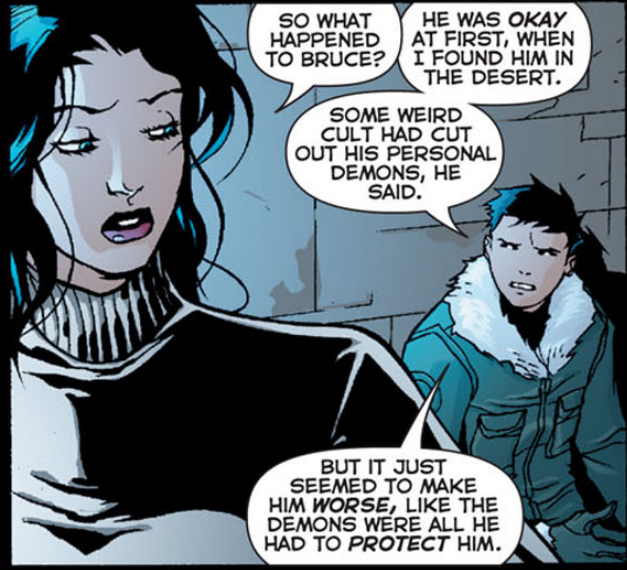
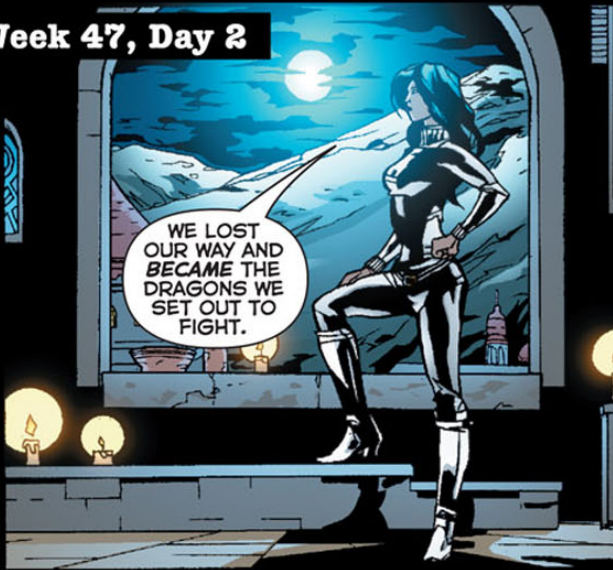
Nanda Parbat



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REVELATIONS

Week 47, Day 2







NEXT IN 

